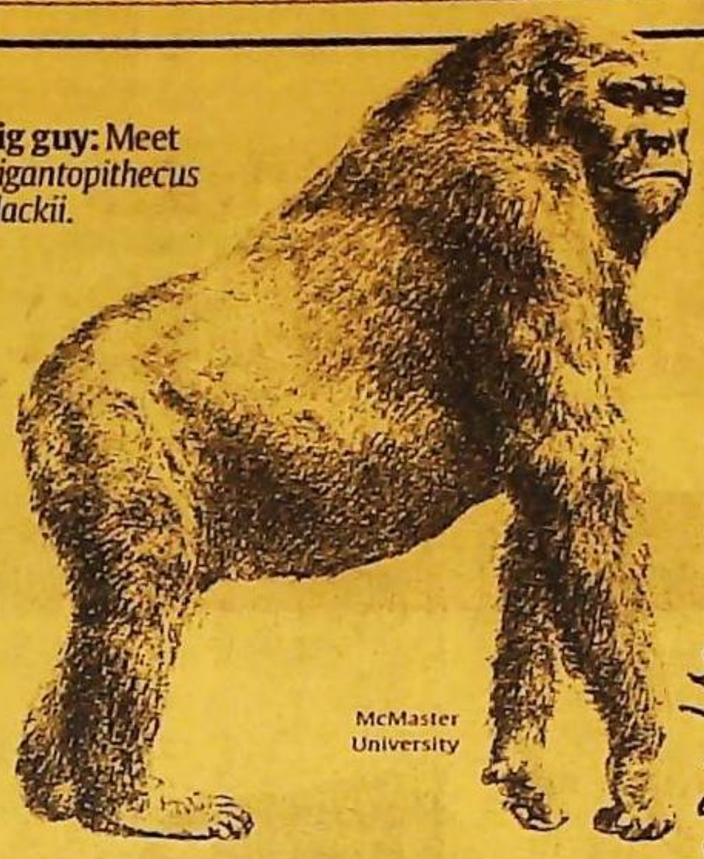
The Track Record

OCTOBER 2005 SUMMARY #154
EDITOR RAY CROWE
ART BY ROB BUTLER

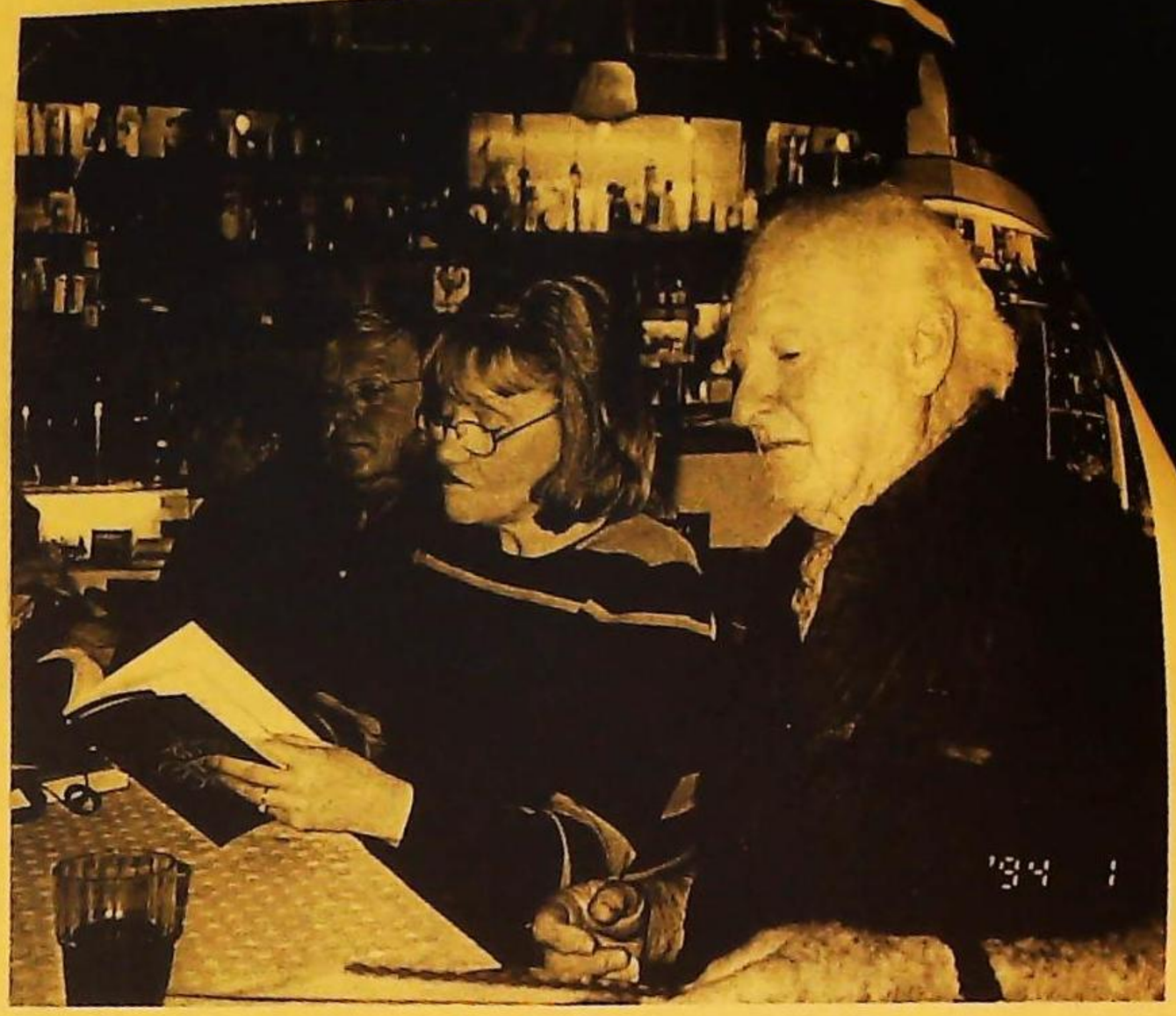


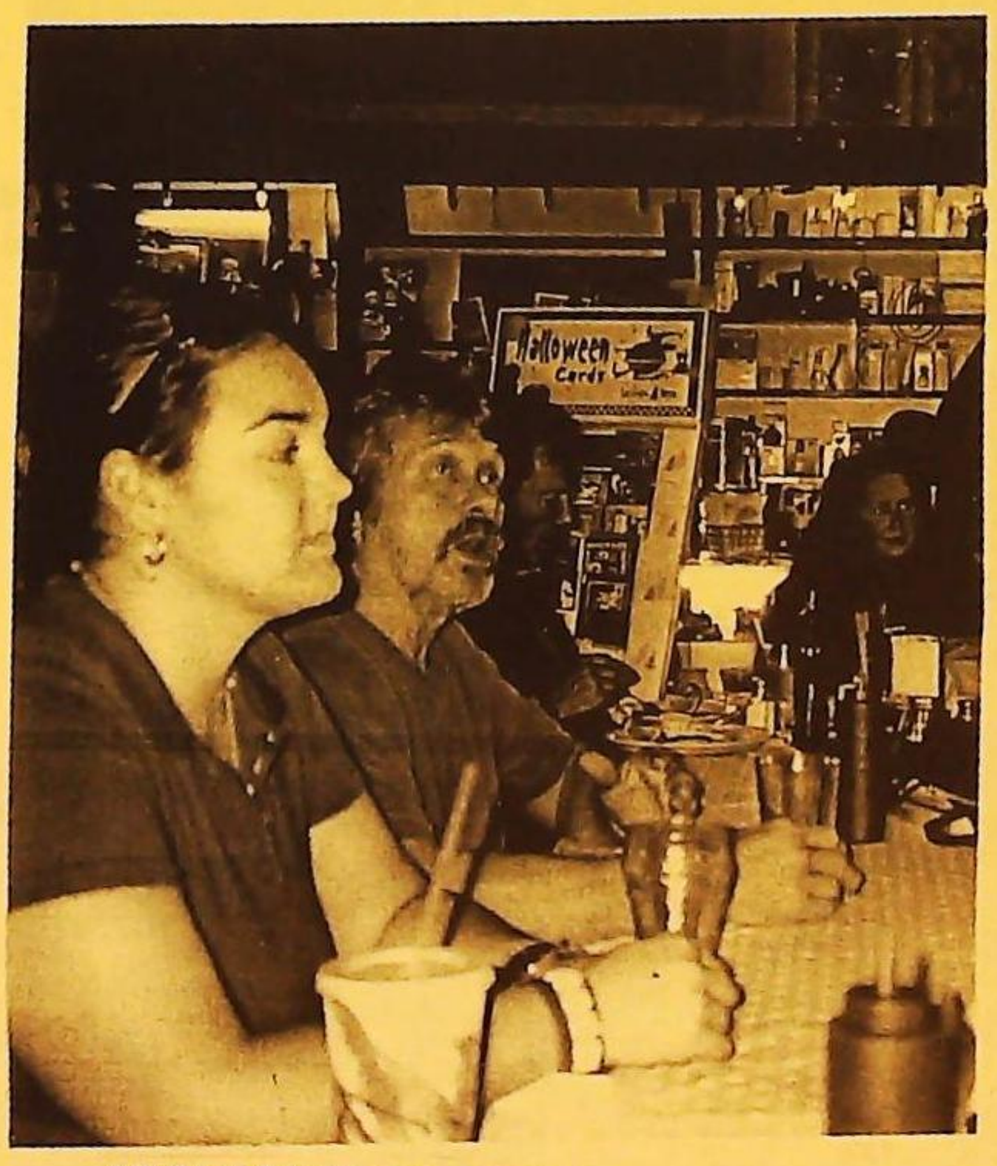
Big guy: Meet *Gigantopithecus blackii.*

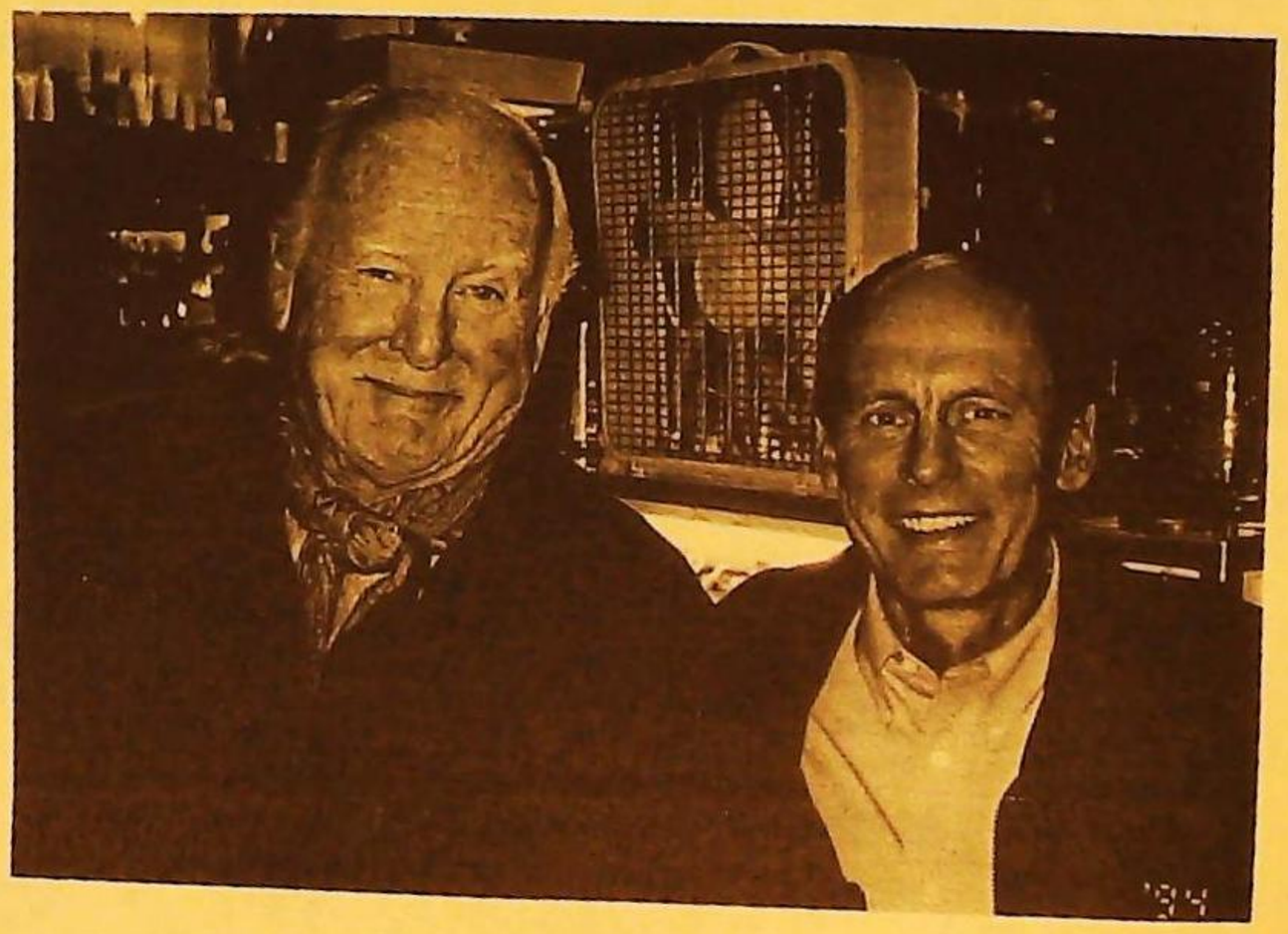
CR; Libby K. Hughes

Giant gorilla was once a human neighbor

King Kong, you have some competition. A 10-foot-tall, 1,200-pound gorilla dwelled among early humans, says a new report by a Canadian researcher. Jack Rink of Canada's McMaster University concludes that the largest primate that ever lived, *Gigantopithecus blackii*, lived in Asia for nearly 1 million years before dying out about 100,000 years ago. Dating of fossil teeth and jawbones, the only remnants of the creature, reveals the ape's age. The gorilla had molars that measured 1 inch across, which was useful in its vegetarian diet. The gorilla may have died out because of competition with early humans. But some researchers have suggested it lived even more recently and contributed to legends such as Bigfoot. The finding has been submitted to a research journal for publication.







10/21/05 VISITORS AT HOME PLATE

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MAKE CHECKS TO RAY CROWE PLEASE I DON'T HAVE A BANK ACCOUNT TO WBS, IBS, TRACK RECORD, ETC...MAKE ALL CHECKS OUT TO RAY CROWE...PLEASE!! Need New Members Badly!!

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* REMEMBER...WE NEED YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOW... POST OFFICE THROWS AWAY BULK MAIL. Sorry, I can't replace if lost due to address change. Back order is possible.

MEETING

Monthly meetings will be at the Home Plate, 8501 N. Lombard, Portland. Dinner at 6PM and meet at 7PM, All invited. Free to the public (no indoor meeting in July, Aug., Nov. or Dec.). There will be a mini-museum and items will be for sale by owner Patti Dietz. See you next January for the next meeting.

MEETINGS

The last meeting of the year was held a week early on Oct. 22nd. This was to both accommodate our speaker, and to take avoid conflicts with Halloween parties.

The guest speaker, Mr Peter Byrne, FRGS, visiting from Los Angeles, gave us a short talk on his recent trip to the Indian Ocean Cocos Islands. They are located a thousand miles SDW of Sri Lanka, and a thousand miles north of Perth, Australia

Peter was serving here in World War II in 1943 in the British Royal Air Force.. His team would patrol in PBYs (an aircraft) to pick crashed plane survivors.

On June 27th, 1945, he and his team were dispatched to the rescue of 14 airmen on a crashed PBY Catalina seaplane. It was burning and sinking at the time, and they pulled out seven airmen, of which five survived. The wreck was recently located and the Australian Government declared it a War Grave site.

Peter was invited to an award ceremony, along with one of the still surviving aircraft survivors, some 60 years later.

* Allen Terry came to the meeting with a Bigfoot foot model, modeled after the descriptions of the Patterson/Gimlin female. He is building a costume which might become one day a part of the IBS collections. He passed the foot around for examination, and one could easily see even dermal ridges on the bottom of the foot.

He then took out an amazing head that he modeled (asked that a photograph not be run at this time). It was very lifelike and expertly modeled; first in wax then a negative and a positive mold were taken in latex and artificial dynel hair was applied. Thanks for sharing these Allen.

KEEP YOUR SKEPTICALS ON WHEN READING THESE REPORTS

* Dave Mann commented that member Tom Lucas had passed away of cancer, and we observed a moment of silence in his behalf.

* Patti Reinhold told of a recent Bigfoot sighting reported by a friend, Dan. Dan said this fellow had come fleeing down Gordon Meadows road (that's the road we took to get to Longbow Camp last July). He was exhausted, having run a long distance and was covered in perspiration.

The fellow had met a Bigfoot in the middle of the road the day before on 10/21. Dan didn't get any description of the creature, other than that it was big. Patti will try to get more details.

* After the meeting Patti and Bob Reinhold, self, accompanied Neal Burgstahler a short distance on Wildwood Trail, off Germantown Road in Forest Park, near the meeting site. Neal broadcast sounds into the woods in an attempt to attract orbs for them to see (I had to stay behind as bait). They were not successful this trip.

Patti and Bob returned home with me to Hillsboro, where I gave her a large collection of video tapes going back to the formation of the old Western Bigfoot Society.

BIGFOOT ACTIVITY REPORTS

* Sighting: Carol Gilliam; 427 Highland Dr. lot 242 Bloomington, IL 61704 309-829-5721 gilliamcgmitzi6@aol.com
Can you contact: Yes Can you publish: yes
Date: Sept 24, 2005 Time: 7:30-8:00 p.m.
Location: Funks Grove Forest
Witnesses: Chris Velaak, Tom Velaak, Rebecca Gilliam, Robert Gilliam, Pedro Torres, & Tim Gilliam
Report to any other org: Yes, ISU professor
I was looking into the woods with flashlights, and we saw him moving his arm; moving up and down, chasing our vehicles, scratching our vehicles and tapping on the cars
Physical Attributes: about 8-10 ft tall, about 400-600 lbs, one was brown, another was reddish-brown-greenish-yellow, huge-about 16-20 inches (?), not sure of the gender, it stunk like a skunk, growls, scary looking, very large creature.

* Sighting: Joe Allen James (use skepticals on this)
South Bend , Washington 98586 pacific 931-302-0598 airbornegi82@yahoo.com Can you contact: Yes Can you publish: yes; Sighting info: Date: 1999, Time: 2 am
Location: 10 miles outside of South Bend, Wa. hilly terrain, 4 miles off a logging road. Actions of reporter: I was sleeping in a tent with my brother, and a friend. Witnesses: Jason McCorkle, Mark Delanoy, and my self.
Description of sighting: We drove up a logging road that my friend knew about (Mark), and we decided to park there and walk up off the road to a place where Mark knew about, to camp there. We walked about 4-5 miles. I really can't remember. When we finally got there. it was a very nice clearing that had a little creek on one side, and a steep hill on the other side. It was like a wall, so we never walked that way. The other two sides were the only way to walk in. The woods were thick all around, so we knew it was a good place to shoot a shotgun my friend brought with us. We cut some small trees down to build a fire. Well, after shooting it became dark, so we decided to go to sleep. The next thing I knew, my brother Jason, woke me up with his hand on my mouth. I thought he was messing with me, so I started to get mad, and yell at him. He quickly signaled me to be quiet and listen. so I did,

but not very happy about his joke I thought he was doing. Well I listen and heard a quite distinctive sound of something walking in our camping area. I was starting to get nervous, but then I thought it was a bear or a deer. We have them all around. The sound got closer, and then I smelled the most digesting smell I have ever known. It smelt like a dead animal, or something worse. I cant explain. Well my curiosity finally got me, so I quietly sat up, and saw that my friend was already awake and slowly loading our shot gun. It was only a single barrel. The fire was about 15 feet away, and whatever it was, stopped between the fire and our tent, and was casting a shadow, that covered the whole tent. Well I turned around, and in our tent we had a little window that you can open the inner flaps to see out. So I slowly opened the flap, and looked out. I saw a massive bi-peddle thing looking around. The smell was so massive, I wanted to puke. I was mesmerized, I froze, I didn't know what to do, but just watch. The creature was just standing there.. It never looked at the tent. It just stood there! It was smelling, or that's what it looked like. I couldn't believe the size of its body, the legs and arms, and chest were just massive. It stood there for god knows how long, and slowly walked into the woods, opposite the way it came in. At that time my friend Mark started to unzip the tent and get out with the shot gun. My brother followed and hesitantly I followed. We had a feeling that it was still there in the trees, but we couldn't see it. It was too thick. And the fire didn't help either. They asked me if I saw it, and I said yes. They asked me what I saw, and I didn't know what to say. I was only 16 at the time. I said it entered the trees over there, and pointed. My friend pointed the shot gun into the air in the direction and fired. Next thing we know, there was a massive noise, like part of it was deep , and a part was high pitch. The forest erupted, like thunder. Whatever it was, it started running up and around the high area behind the campsite. we listened for the sound to slowly fade away. For the next long hours, we stayed awake by the camp fire, adding more and more logs, to make it big as possible.

The next morning, when the sun came up, we went over to the area by where we heard the yell and found a foot print in a softer area, it was huge, we never measured it; didn't have anything to measure. if I guessed I would say, like a foot and a half. I don't know, but the scariest thing was that there was a small tree, like maybe 4-6 in circumference, it was broken, twisted and laid down toward the ground. To me it looked like whatever it was, used it to pull itself forward when it ran. We left as soon as we could, and we never came back. I would never go back.
Physical Attributes: It was hairy. I couldn't tell what color the hair was, but it wasn't black, it was more like a brown, or dark brown. It was over 6-7 feet. It was big, but I remember the size of its body. it was very muscular, the legs were huge. like a body builder or something. The hair was all over, but the face was so human, really human, but not much hair, or if it did, it was very light color. The smell was horrendous. it yelled and scared the hell out of me.

* Note from Dr Henner Fahrenbach
HennerF@aol.com Save to Address Book |
Subject : Hair Submitted by Don Monroe, Idaho
Date: Thu, 20 Oct 2005 Dear Ray,

I could retrieve only one hair out of this foil envelope, conceivably the worst kind of container, relatively unsealed at that (it should be at least a Ziploc baggie). The hair has a diameter of between 24 and 31 µm, exceedingly thin for almost any hair other than undercoat. It has similarities to sasquatch hair in that it is more or less the same diameter for its entire length, has a reddish cast throughout and no definable medulla. It does have an uncharacteristic distribution of pigment condensations, something that I have never seen in presumptive sasquatch hair. Given that I have only this single hair, I do not want to commit myself to any identification other than to say it is a possible positive one and it would be desirable to have a slightly larger sample. My best, Henner.

* Here's a chuckler...so bad, thought you'd get a kick out of it...Ray From: mardeith1@aol.com | Subject : |IBS| Sighting Report Date: Sun, Nov 20, 2005 11:09 AM
Sighting: mardeith, redbug lake rode windermere , florida 34786 Can you contact: No Can you publish: no Sighting info: Date: dec 9 1995 Time: 8:00 Location:mountanis in montania snowy and trees Actions of reporter: walking the dog Witnesses: derek jetter, cliffod haros, anthony smith Report to any other org:Yes If yes, to who: montana policia departmany Description of sighting: it ws about 8 in the moning when fluffy needed to be walked.i lett her out side with out a lesch and then she started to barking and shack i whent to see what it was and i fell in a big foot print i called my friends out side and showed them the foot print and derek began to say if big foot was a round i would fight him all of a sadden bigg foot came running like king konk and ate derek he was a lyier and a chup because he did not fight big foot like he said he would what a loser because i would have fough him my slef.i tryed to fight big foot for him but he had booty breath and i pass out i woke up at 7 at night AND I did not know were i was untill i heard derek say its hot in her and very dark.and at once i knew i was eaten.i knew bigg foot had to go to the bathroom some time and he did that is how i am her today.thank you for reading my 100% true story
Physical Attributes: he was a 20 feet brown eyes brown hair with blond highlight his feet were the size of a shoe size of 40 his breath smeeled like booty cheeksmale because i thoght it was a punching bagraaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa grrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr heeeeeeeeeeeehe had long and thick eye lashe and pretty feet

* Here's another of the same type...Ray
From :WhoISMikEJones@aol.com |
Subject :|IBS| Sighting Report Date:Sun, Nov 20, 2005 11:21 AM Sighting: Mike Jones 226 S Washington; Cleveland , texas 77327 USA 281 330 8004 WhoISMikEJones@aol.com
Can you contact: Yes Can you publish: yes
Sighting info: Date: November, 20, 2003, 3:00 P.M.
Location: The zoo, hard ground, trees, cage
Actions of reporter: taking a picture Witnesses: Paul Wall
Description of sighting: I was showing my daughter the tigers when i heard a OOhhh OHh Ahh Ahh..as i look i saw Big foot in the cage next to the tigers eating a banana!! he was locked in with about 3 other big foots.
Physical Attributes: about 5 feet. i had a handout describing the so called \"monkey\" in the cage and it said it was to be about 130 pounds. it had black a gray hair and colorful abd bald butt. it had brown eyes and small feet and hands. it smelled horrible...worse then the elephant section!!

* Listening to WWWAskDarryl.Net online radio show, and heard guest Tom Biscardi inviting one fellow, Chris of Illinois, tell of being on Route 66, near McClain, Ill, about 12:30 (date?) of seeing a 6-7 foot Bigfoot laying flat in a ditch. It bared its teeth and he left. Two nights later it attacked his vehicle, scratching the trunk, he said.

Of possible interest, it mentioned that Roger Patterson had been on the Johnny Carson show in 1967...I didn't know that, Ray

MISCELANEOUS

* From : "Craig Woolheater" ecwool@swbell.net
Mon, 10 Oct 2005 Quoted from the website:

"If you missed the Honobia BigFoot Festival (Honobia, Oklahoma - September 2005), and if you have even the slightest interest in the BigFoot phenomenon, then you may want to see the Bigfoot video that is due for release November 1, 2005.

It covers the Bigfoot festival, covers the true* stories being told and follows one of the Bigfoot storytellers to a cabin deep in the woods near the Arkansas border, where he and his wife relate their run-in with BigFoot .

Video: Honobia, OK BigFoot Festival 2005 featuring half a dozen true BigFoot stories, then our camera team follows one of the storytellers to a small cabin, deep into the east Oklahoma woods to see where it all happened. See a bigfoot video sample(http://www.okvideoguy.com/bigfoot/?v=4), then add this to your "must-have" video collection."

* Note from member :Sue Lindley10/18

I went to the Honobia, OK, Bigfoot Festival two weeks ago. It was mostly arts and crafts booths and singing and dancing, with Bigfoot stories being told down by the nearby river.

I went to the river to hear some stories but no one was there telling them. A little girl was there and complained that she wanted to hear a Bigfoot story. So I sat on the big rock the story tellers use, and began telling a story about the sasquatch that saved a little child. She listened intently. Soon some teenagers arrived and I talked about sasquatch scaring some teens into leaving their beer at a river bottom party. Then adults and more children and teenagers arrived. I told stories until the festival ended. I hadn't anticipated this happening or I would have brought casts and other show and tell items. It was the most fun I've had in a coon's age.

* From Kewaunee Lapseritis, Date obscured by postmark. The third night in the cabin in Oklahoma's Kiamichi Wilderness, Joan Ocean (see Etfriends.com) saw an 8 1/2- 9 foot Bigfoot and it telepathically spoke to her. It was about 18 feet away. She was thinking to herself how dangerous it might be there. When Bigfoot said, "you are protected." More later, take care.

* You are in: Cooltech > Coolscience
'New' giant ape spotted; Posted Mon, 11 Oct 2004
Pic: The creature's face is similar to that of a gorilla (pictured).
An elusive giant ape has been spotted in remote forests in central Africa, sparking theories that it could be a new species of primate — a finding that would be the most astonishing wildlife discovery in decades, New Scientist has said. The British weekly says the mysterious creatures have been seen in forests around the towns of Bondo and Bili, in the far north of the Democratic Republic of Congo. From the rare eyewitness sightings, bone discoveries and a video recording, the animals have large, black faces, are up to two metres tall and weigh between 85 and 102kg.

That would put them in the size category of gorillas — but the region lies 500km from the edges of the known habitats of the western and eastern species of gorilla. The creature's face is gorilla-like and has a sagittal crest — a long bony ridge — that is typical of gorillas. But other aspects of the skull morphology are that of a chimpanzee, according to Colin Groves, an expert at the Australian National University in Canberra.

Behavior

As for behavior, the apes make nests on the ground like gorillas, whereas chimpanzees prefer to make their homes in the trees. But, unlike gorillas, which hate water and prefer to build a new nest every night, these primates make their beds in swampy ground and reuse them night after night.

Fasces recovered from the nest sites indicated an animal with a diet rich in fruit, which is typical of chimps.

Shelly Williams, a US primatologist affiliated to the Jane Goodall Institute in Maryland, captured the apes on video in 2002 with the help of local people and was once briefly confronted by a group of four of them in dense forest.

This, along with other evidence, makes her think that there is a chance the animals could be a new species of great primate — in other words, an undiscovered genetic relative of humans.

Other possibilities are that it is gorilla-chimp hybrid, or a new sub-species of chimp that would be 50 percent bigger than its largest cousins.

Anecdotal evidence about the unusual apes dates back to photos taken by European hunters in 1898, when the region was the Belgian Congo.

The trail was then picked up in 1996 by Karl Ammann, a Kenyan-based Swiss photographer, who was intrigued by local tales that the forests were inhabited by large ferocious apes that could kill lions.

Unlike gorillas, which invariably charge when they see a threat, these apes turn around and silently slip away into the forest when encountered, says Ammann.

The discovery of these apes "reveals just how much we still have to learn about our closest living relatives," New Scientist notes, expressing concern that animals could be "poached out of existence" unless conservation measures are urgently taken to protect them. AFP

* Media Article # 324
Article submitted by Richard Hucklebridge, rhuck@attglobal.net, September 29, 2002 On the trail of Bigfoot, By Beret Rankin Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

Vance Orchard has been following reports of evidence and sightings of Bigfoot in the Blue Mountains around Walla Walla since 1966. That's when, as a reporter for the Union-Bulletin, he wrote about a man who said he saw large human-like tracks while riding a motorcycle along Mill Creak Road. "It's been very interesting to read about and hear about it," Orchard said of his experiences with the Bigfoot phenomenon. "I haven't seen one myself, but I've seen all kinds of evidence to indicate that something's out there." He recently published his second book on the subject, "The Walla Walla Bigfoot," nine years after releasing this first compilation, "Bigfoot of the Blues."

Orchard said he decided to write the first book after local U.S. Forest Service employee Paul Freeman reported running into an eight-foot Bigfoot while on patrol in the Mill Creek watershed. Freeman took a lot of criticism for reporting his experience, eventually losing his job and moving his family out of the area. "I guess I'd say I was in Paul Freeman's corner to some extent," Orchard said. "I thought I'd like to present the facts I had, even if they were anecdotal. It hadn't been done before." The books contain many of the columns Orchard has written on area Bigfoot sightings and evidence in the Union-Bulletin and for the Waitsburg Times. His second book strives to update the experiences of local outdoorsmen and women, as will as chronicle some scientific viewpoints on the subject. "Science has ignored it or done little with it," Orchard said. "Right here in the Blue Mountains is one of the best, if not the best place, to research (Bigfoot)." And Orchard certainly isn't alone in his local patronage of the Bigfoot enthusiasts used to meet every Wednesday morning at the Blue Mountain Mall food court to discuss their experiences and developments.

These meetings were often a Sumerlin family reunion of sorts. Wes Sumerlin spent most of his life in the Blue Mountains, trapping, tracking and recreating with family. He had many stories of personal Bigfoot encounters and compiled a well-worn photo album of tracks and hair gathered in his quest of Bigfoot. Members of his family and others who had experiences attributed to Bigfoot around the area congregated to share their thoughts. The Sumerlin patriarch died in 1999, and the weekly meetings slowed. At a recent gathering Wes's widow Natalie (aka Pee-Wee), his daughter Carol Smith and grandson Jonathan Sumerlin met with Orchard, former Dayton game warden Bill Laughery, Brian Smith, the Walla Walla representative of the North American Ape Project and Sheryl Jenkins, an equestrian with a cabin on Stewart Ridge overlooking the Mill Creek watershed. The group looked over plaster casts and photos as they recalled their initial Bigfoot encounters.

Even growing up with Wes Sumerlin's stories didn't make immediate Bigfoot believers out of some of his family members. Jonathan Sumerlin was a teenager in the early 1990s when on a family outing at Timothy Meadows (a couple miles northeast of Jubilee Lake), his grandfather turned up a 71/2-foot grassy area that appeared to be a bedding spot, as well as large tracks right around where group members had been. "That was my first

experience, and that's where I became an absolute believer!" Sumerlin said. "I thought it was a campfire story grandpa told until then." "You always had five to ten percent doubt, even as dad's daughter! The first time you see one it's a shock," Carol Smith said of her encounter with a Bigfoot a couple years ago. "I now maintain that Bigfoot is alive and well!"

Brian Smith was new to the area when he says he saw Bigfoot crossing the road while in the Blue Mountains. Now, Smith is spearheading an effort to capture proof of Bigfoot on film with motion-detecting cameras and other technology. Cheryl Smith reports she's spotted Bigfoot while riding horses around her cabin on Stewart Ridge three times, and feels it takes experience to spot them. "We figure they were there before us, and if you really don't know it's there, I really believe you can walk right by one unless they move," she said. "Spotting them takes time. You need to know how they move."

Laughery. Now of West Richland, spent years in the Blue Mountains in his position as a game warden, and was not a Bigfoot believer until he, Freeman and Wes Sumerlin say they ran into three of them on Biscuit Ridge south of Dixie. He since had several other sightings and Laughery still takes excursions into the Blues to show where reported sightings have taken place. He said signs that a Bigfoot is in the area is that there are no wildlife sounds, and there is a pungent odor. "They're extremely hard to see," Laughery said on a recent return trip to the area where the trio had its experience. "One jumped fifteen feet in front of Wes," he said. "And got within 200 feet of me Then that thing somehow disappeared." Laughery recalls seeing Bigfoot in a clearing in the bottom of Dry Creek Canyon as well as spotting tracks that he followed for miles in the fields around Mill Creek. And there's something he feels strongly about following his encounters. "They're thinking animals," he said. "I think one was trying to communicate with me." Orchard, who has written about a dozen other books on his various experiences around the Walla Walla Valley, said he plans to continue following the Bigfoot phenomenon. He says questions of why more people don't see Bigfoot is easily explained. "I don't know how many other people see them and don't want to report it," Orchard said. He says polls taken 20 years ago indicated 10 to 15 percent of people believed in Bigfoot. Now, that estimate is up to 40 percent. And, Orchard says, most people don't spend as much time in the Blue Mountains as some of those who report seeing Bigfoot. "If you go fishing a lot you're going to catch more fish than if you go once a year," Orchard said.

* Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net
Subject : Bigfoot conference coverage, 16 Oct 2005

From the Longview (TX) News-Journal: 15 Oct. 2005; Believers get together to talk about Sasquatch at conference By LESLIE BAILEY JEFFERSON - When Bigfoot enthusiasts have lunch in East Texas, they still talk about football. But they also swap stories of sightings, compare notes on vocalizations and strange stenches and discuss primate anatomy. In fact, sometimes they're so busy eating up the conversation, their food goes untouched. Friday at Licea's Mexican Restaurant in Jefferson, Daryl Colyer's lunch got cold while he talked about Sasquatch. His wife, Dalinda, watched with fond amusement. "He gets so animated when he tells his stories," she said. Colyer is a field investigator with Dallas-based Texas Bigfoot Research Center. The center's fifth annual Texas Bigfoot Conference began Friday with a catered dinner and video presentation. The organizers and many of the speakers met up at Licea's before things got under way. The three-day conference has steadily grown since its inception, and this year Colyer said organizers are hoping for 450 attendees, up from 340 last year. The event has started to attract state and national media attention, with recent coverage by the Associated Press, CNN, Texas Monthly and Texas Highways, to name a few.

"It's been good," said Craig Woolheater, TBRC director. "We've gotten a lot of good activity to our Web site, and I think we'll get a lot of people here (at the conference) because of it."

Jefferson, perched on the banks of Big Cypress Bayou and home to the legend of the Boggy Creek Monster, seems the ideal location. The city has welcomed the researchers with open arms. Today, Woolheater will be awarded a proclamation declaring the third weekend in October "Texas Bigfoot Weekend" in Jefferson. He'll also be given the key to the city.

"We love Bigfoot!" said Juanita Chitwood, the city's director of tourism development. Her husband, Charlie, wore a pair of hairy rubber prosthetics over his sneakers Friday.Colyer is emphatic about his belief that Bigfoot is not a monster, but simply an undocumented primate. Woolheater says the Piney Woods offer Bigfoot an ideal habitat, with ample food and water. That's why there have been so many sightings here, he said.

Crytozoologist Loren Coleman disagrees, however. Coleman has been researching Bigfoot for 45 years. He believes Woolheater's work in East Texas has simply uncovered reports that were already here.

In 1965, Dwaine Dennis, then editor and owner of the Jefferson Jimplecute, wrote about a sighting by a 13-year-old Marion County boy. A story about the incident also was published in the Marshall News Messenger. Dennis' wife, Virginia, said the boy had been chased home by something "big and hairy and tall." "They say he ran the soles off his shoes," she said. Ms. Dennis helped her husband investigate the report. They found unusually large footprints at the old foundry cemetery and a pear tree with half-eaten fruit dangling from it at least seven feet off the ground. "I don't know what it was," Ms. Dennis said. "I assume it was something like a Bigfoot, but we didn't see it."Ms. Colyer was with her husband when he had his own close encounter in May 2004 along the bank of the Trinity River. If she hadn't been wearing sandals, she might have seen Sasquatch, too. The couple were on their way home from a baseball game when Colyer decided, on a whim, to investigate a sighting report. Ms. Colyer said her husband was a little ahead of her on a path when something crawled across her foot. She bent down, and just then, Bigfoot jumped across the trail.

"I could tell he'd seen something," she said. "He looked excited, panicky."Unable to share the moment, she was disappointed, to say the least. "Of all the timing ... , " she said. Colyer says he's always been interested in Bigfoot, but the credit union manager didn't join the TBRC until 2003."It would be nice if he got funding," Ms. Colyer said. The cost of gas and supplies add up, but "he enjoys it a lot. He puts in so much work and doesn't get paid for it." Colyer will teach a seminar on Bigfoot basics this weekend. Other speakers will talk about subjects ranging from footprint casts to field research techniques. General admission to the event, which will be on the campus of Jefferson High School, is $10.

From the Seattle Post-Intelligencer: 15 Oct. 2005 Bigfoot conference in Texas draws hundreds By ANGELA K. BROWN

JEFFERSON, Texas – Next to a lifelike replica of a giant ape head, the believers milled around tables Saturday covered with casts of large footprints, books about nature's mysteries and T-shirts proclaiming "Bigfoot: Often Imitated, Never Invalidated. "While they can have a sense of humor about it, the search for the legendary Sasquatch is no joke for many of the nearly 400 people who came here to discuss the latest sightings and tracking techniques at the Texas Bigfoot Conference."It's not a matter of believing, like faith, when you believe in something you can't see," said Daryl G. Colyer, a Lorena businessman who has investigated hundreds of reported Bigfoot sightings in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana."It's a flesh-and-blood animal that just has not been discovered yet. And I think we're getting closer and closer and closer," Colyer said.Outlandish theories about the origin of Bigfoot abound, including that it might be an extraterrestrial. Many believe that a towering, ape-like creature

escended from a prehistoric 9- to 10-foot-tall gorilla called a Gigantopithecus, and that it now inhabits North American forests. Hoaxes have been a large part of the making of the Bigfoot legend.California construction company owner Ray L. Wallace donned 16-inch wooden feet to create tracks in mud in 1958, and it led to a front-page story in a local paper that coined the term "Bigfoot." But there have been more than 2,550 seemingly credible Bigfoot sightings reported in North America the past century, according to Christopher L. Murphy's 2004 book "Meet the Sasquatch." Murphy believes thousands more witnesses are too afraid of ridicule to come forward. "You see one of these things and it changes your whole perception of reality," said Craig Woolheater, the office manager of a Dallas company who co-founded the Texas Bigfoot Research Center in 1999, five years after he said he saw a hairy creature walking along a remote Louisiana road. Colyer and others estimate that about 2,000 are in North America today, reclusive nocturnal animals living in thickly wooded areas with waterways, eating meat and plants and making nests out of trees and brush. Pictures and film footage are often disputed, such as the 1967 footage of a creature walking near a California creek. Most evidence centers on hundreds of casts of footprints collected since the 1950s. Jimmy Chilcutt, a retired fingerprint analysis expert for the Conroe Police Department, said many of the hundreds of prints he examined belonged to a primate, but not a human, ape, gorilla or chimpanzee. Like Chilcutt, other well-respected professionals have come forward to say such evidence should not be dismissed. "To me it's still an open question, but here's some evidence that warrants some serious consideration, so give it a chance," said Jeff Meldrum, associate professor of anatomy and anthropology at Idaho State University who has studied more than 150 casts of footprints. "This is not a paranormal question; it's a biological question."

* FROM: JUANITA WAKEFIELD CHITWOOD, DIRECTOR OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT – CITY OF JEFFERSON (903) 665-3733 juanitawc@sbcglobal.net OCTOBER 17, 2005
5TH ANNUAL BIGFOOT CONFERENCE A GREAT SUCCESS

For all you believers and non-believers, this year's BigFoot Conference was, for all practical purposes, a success. With over 500 attending the conference, a host of guest speakers, an Elvis sighting, dinner, concert, a BigFoot action figure, literature, videos, artifacts, fascinating lectures, and more, what more can one ask for? The media came, they saw, they reported. Listed below is the coverage Jefferson has received before, during, and after the weekend's event:Jefferson Jimplecute, Texarkana Gazette,Texas Monthly,Texas Highways,Marshall News Messenger,Longview News Journal,The ASSOCIATED PRESS (World-wide),Ft. Worth Star Telegram,Dallas Morning News, USA Today,KLTV Channel 7 (Tyler) Joan Hallmark,KTAL Channel 6 (Shreveport),CBS Channel 19 (Longview) History Channel,CNN,Yahoo! MSN.com website

The Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio was at the conference to gather information for a documentary on BigFoot and exhibit. The University of Oklahoma was also in Jefferson to interview Craig Woolheater, Director of the Texas BigFoot Research Center. I have discovered this conference is far more than I had imagined. A professor of anatomy and anthropology at Idaho State University and affiliate curator at the Idaho Museum of Natural History; a Forest Archaeologist for the Stanislaus National Forest in Sonora, California; research scientists; authors; police investigators and many seekers of and elusive creature known as BigFoot gather annually in Jefferson to explore, document, and validate its existence. I find myself counting the days until next year's conference. The next time as I am trekking through the Piney Woods of East Texas I will keep a sharp eye and ear open for what might be the find of the century.

* Craig Woolheater <ecwool@swbell.net> wrote:
Where's Bigfoot?by Randy Mallory; Texas Highways magazine October 2005 http://www.texasbigfoot.com/TXHwys1.html
go to url for color photo from magazine

Last April, a cadre of ornithologists unveiled video footage shot in the backwoods of Arkansas, of what they said was an ivory-billed woodpecker, a species considered extinct. The video brought a collective gasp from a skeptical scientific community and a delighted general public. The news also put a twinkle in the eyes of an eclectic group of self-styled cryptozoologists - folks who study animals alleged (but not yet proven) to exist. Some believe another elusive creature lives in the remote hinterlands of Arkansas and East Texas - an unidentified primate called Bigfoot.

It's one thing to rediscover a known species. It's a leap of faith to seek a creature that remains more fiction than fact. True believers and the merely curious make that leap October 15 - 16 in Jefferson at the fifth annual Texas Bigfoot Conference, which attracts speakers and attendees from several states.

Jefferson proves the perfect haunt for a gathering of the crypto clan, as I discovered at last year's confab.

Spooky Caddo Lake, with its gray, moss-bearded, bald cypress groves, lurks a short boat ride away, along the Big Cypress Bayou. The swampy lake was the filming site of the 1976 cult horror flick, Creature from Black Lake, about a Bigfoot sighting. Cryptozoologists also look to the Jefferson-Caddo area - along with bottomlands of the nearby Sulphur River - as an epicenter for alleged Bigfoot sightings,.reports of which have circulated for decades. For centuries, legends of a giant, hairy bipedal primate - variously called Bigfoot, Yeti, Sasquatch , and Skunk Ape - have permeated cultures worldwide, including North American native peoples. In a northwestern U.S. logging camp in 1958, Sasquatch-seeker Ray Wallace turned up giant footprints, which later proved a hoax. The Holy Grail for cryptozoologists appeared in 1967, when Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin shot a compelling and much-debated short film of a strange creature striding beside a northern California riverbank.

Southern Bigfoot mania stomped into public view on the heels of the Patterson film. Headlines in 1969 recounted reports of a Bigfoot "monster" sighted at Lake Worth near Fort Worth. Another Bigfoot sighting in Fouke, Arkansas, 15 miles southeast of Texarkana, inspired the 1973 docudrama film, The Legend of Boggy Creek. Dallasite Craig Woolheater grew up fascinated with the legend. Late one moonless night in 1994, the legend crossed his path, Craig says. He believes he saw a hairy, seven-foot creature walk upright across a deserted highway near Alexandria, Louisiana. Others reported seeing it, too.

In June 1999, Bigfoot buffs formed the Texas Bigfoot Research Center (TBRC), an organization that investigates reports of Bigfoot sightings. The TBRC website has received more than a million cyber-visits in the last 12 months alone, plus 150 sighting reports that describe a giant creature walking erect, often making an eerie call and emitting a foul odor. Most reports come from hunters, campers and hikers who venture into the deep woods of EastTexas. Half of the reports turn out to be pranks or hoaxes, says Craig. But 50 or so each year prove compelling enough for the organization to investigate with interviews or field trips - most recently in several southeast Texas counties, the Sam Houston National Forest, and Wood County in Northeast Texas. Fieldwork involves a small (and quiet) group of TBRC volunteers who fan out across a hotspot under the cover of night, says North Texas investigator Jerry Hestand. The group goes equipped with night-vision scopes for viewing, infrared and special digital cameras for low-light photography, and parabolic dishes for sound recording. The group also maintains unmanned heat- and motion-sensitive "game cameras" in baited hotspots.

"Our evidence includes casts of footprints we've found and vocalizations recorded in the field," explains Craig. "Our most convincing evidence will come from unmanned technology. Credibility is everything."

At last year's Bigfoot conference, the speakers decried hoaxes while deliberation over casts of odd and unidentified footprints, intriguingly fuzzy photos, and strange voice recordings. They theorized how Bigfoot could exist in remote pockets of Texas and elsewhere. The speakers seemed...well, at least logical, if not credible (though one speaker's conjecture about a "desert ape" hiding in underground caves near El Paso seemed incredible).

The most compelling conclusions came from Jimmy Chilcutt, a retired police fingerprint expert from Conroe. (He returns to the conference this year.) Five years ago, Jimmy saw a television report by Jeff Meldrum, a professor of anatomy and anthropology at Idaho State University, on body prints found in the Northwest of a large unknown creature with a 13-inch footprint. (Meldrum also speaks at the 2005 Jefferson conference.) Jimmy contacted the professor and compared a cast of a footprint to his collection of primate and human prints. "The footprint was definitely a primate, but not like any primate or human known to exist," Jimmy told me. "Since then, I've seen four or five similar prints, including ones from the South, that I consider believable. I'm not a Bigfoot enthusiast, but I say there's an animal out there that needs more scientific investigation."

Bigfoot fan Craig Woolheater couldn't agree more. "The recent rediscovery of the ivory-billed woodpecker shows what can be done with adequate resources. The search for Bigfoot in Texas is being done in our volunteers spare time." Last year's Jefferson conference proved interesting, but I remain a skeptic with an open mind...but also a skeptic who once believed the ivory-billed woodpecker was as gone as the dinosaur.

== Although photojournalist Randy Mallory lives in the heart of Bigfoot Country - East
Texas - he remains a sympathetic disbeliever.

THE TEXAS BIGFOOT Research Center hold its 5th Annual Texas Bigfoot Conference Oct. 15-16 at Jefferson's high school common area at 1 Bulldog Dr. For details, call 877/529-5550; www.texasbigfoot.com. Another Bigfoot conclave, the Southern Crypto Conference, occurs each June in Conroe.
Contact Chester Moore, 101 Broad St., Orange 77630; www.cryptokeeper.com.

*http://www.boston.com/news/local/maine/articles/_$1 million bounty to be offered for live capture of Bigfoot October 16, 2005
NOTE: REWARD IS NO LONGER VALID; LEWISTON, Maine –A Maine scientist is preparing to release details of a $1 million reward for a photograph that leads to the live capture of Bigfoot, the abominable snowman or the Loch Ness Monster.

Loren Coleman, a professor at the University of Southern Maine, said the bounty would be paid for by an unnamed company and that he will release more details at a cryptozoology symposium at Bates College over Halloween weekend. Cryptozoology is the scientific study of hidden, rumored or unknown animals. "It's the time for something like this," Coleman said. "Back in the 1960s, hardly anybody was talking about this. Today, it's phenomenal." The mysteries surrounding these creatures have long been the subject of debate.

Bigfoot, or sasquatch, is said to be a huge, hairy humanlike creature with long arms. The abominable snowman, or yeti, is a large hairy, manlike mammal reputed to live in the Himalayas. The Loch Ness Monster is a dinosaur-like creature reputed to live in a lake in Scotland.

The $1 million bounty would be paid by a company to anyone who produces a photograph that leads to the live capture of one of the three creatures, Coleman said. "We don't want people running around with guns trying to kill something to get the money," Coleman said. "It's not a contest, either. It's a very specific bounty that depends on the permanent capture of a live specimen, with emphasis on 'live.'"

Coleman, a cryptozoologist who is considered one of the world's leading experts on Bigfoot, said he would release some details about the bounty at a Bigfoot conference over the weekend in Texas. He's saving the rest for Lewiston, where he will speak at the symposium on Oct. 28 on the Bates campus. The three-day symposium, held at the Bates College Museum of Art, will focus on cryptozoology, science and art. "What we like about the subject is that there is such a fine line between truth and fraud in the field, and that goes way back through history," said museum curator Mark Bessire. "We're looking at how the possibility of these beasts becomes a part of the cultural canon." The event will include panel discussions about the science of fantastic creatures and artistic interpretations of their stories. It will feature two movies, including "The Legend of Boggy Creek," a 1972 film about a small Arkansas town terrorized by a swamp monster. Coleman said most sightings are hoaxes, mistakes or misunderstandings. But the $1 million reward is on the level, he said. "The company that's behind this really understands the situation," he said. "They understand the interest in the creatures and monsters that are really out there and they are willing to step forward."

* From : "Michael Newton" eyeofnewt@att.net
http://www.cryptomundo.com/cryptozoo-news/duel-masters-withdraws-1m-bounty-2/ 18 Oct. 2005; Duel Masters Withdraws $1M Bounty

Duel Masters Withdraws and Rescinds $1M Bounty Hunt (Renton, Wash.) As noted by international cryptozoologist and author Loren Coleman earlier this week, the Duel Masters trading card game produced by Wizards of Coast |Hasbro, Inc.'s (NYSE: HAS)|, explored the possibility of sponsoring a one million dollar bounty hunt that would encourage the live safe capture of Bigfoot,Yeti (Abominable Snowman) or Nessie (Loch Ness Monster). Prior to the start of the promotion, Duel Masters reconsidered based on safety concerns for both the public and for creatures-at-large. Specifically, Duel Masters feared that untrained cryptozoologists would engage in unsafe behaviors in their attempt to capture these legendary creatures and that innocent creatures may be harmed in the process. Instead, Duel Masters is sponsoring a photo contest that provides a guaranteed first prize of $5,000 for the photo that best perpetuates the mystique surrounding the hunt for the legendary creatures Bigfoot, Loch Ness Monster and/or Yeti. A second place prize winner will receive $2,500, and three third place winners will receive $500. The contest will be launched on October 24, 2005, which is the beginning of Creature Appreciation Week. A full set of contest rules may be viewed beginning Oct. 24, 2005 at the official website for Creature Appreciation Week, which is www.caw2005.com.

++++ Loren Coleman comment: Okay, I've seen it all in 45 years, so this doesn't really surprise me. Sure, I'm disappointed in Duel Master's withdrawal of the bounty offer. But I understand. My phone has been ringing off the hook (since getting back from Texas). I'm hearing from people from around the world, from Scotland to Australia. The media story on this bounty has caused an unprecedented worldwide frenzy in which, apparently, Duel Masters felt a monster hunter could have gotten badly hurt in the race for the million dollar bounty. No one wants that. The company seems to have discovered all kinds of legal considerations too. Duel Masters may have discovered, for example, that the Loch Ness Monsters are protected under British law, specifically The Protection of Animals (Scotland) Act of 1912 and The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966. And a few American counties have laws with heavy fines and imprisonment for harming Bigfoot, which could have accidentally occurred. Glad to hear there are guaranteed prizes of $9000 for photographs now.

* From Michael Newman; From the Boston Globe: October 19, 2005 Bigfoot bounty is rescinded before it's formally announced

PORTLAND, Maine --A proposed $1 million reward for evidence leading to the live capture of Bigfoot, the abominable snowman or the Loch Ness Monster has been withdrawn even before it was formally offered.

Loren Coleman, a Portland author and cryptozoologist, had said details would be released at a symposium at Bates College later this month. Instead, Coleman announced Tuesday evening that Wizards of the Coast, which produces the Duel Masters Trading Card Game, pulled the plug. The Hasbro Toys subsidiary feared someone could get hurt in the frenzy to find and photograph one of the creatures, he said.

"The media story on this bounty has caused an unprecedented worldwide frenzy in which, apparently, Duel Masters felt a monster hunter could have gotten badly hurt in the race for the million dollar bounty. No one wants that," Coleman said. Rather than offering a reward for the capture of one the critters, Wizards of the Coast's Duel Masters is launching a contest starting next week for either photos of creatures or evidence of creatures, such as footprints. The grand prize: $5,000.

The photo contest, which is part of Duel Masters' Creature Appreciation Week, will be launched on Oct. 24, and it will run through February. "Entries are expected to range from actual photos of Bigfoot and lake monsters to mysterious footprints found out in the yard and blurry photos of pet llamas," the company said in a press release announcing the contest.

Despite the tongue-in-cheek tone of the contest, Coleman is a dedicated scientist who has been studying and researching creatures such as Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster and Yeti, aka the abominable snowman, for nearly 40 years.The retired University of Southern Maine faculty member will be the keynote speaker at the upcoming Bates College Cryptozoology Symposium at Bates College in Lewiston.

* From Bill Brann, 10/15

The picture I enclosed depicts former Whitehall (NY) police officer, Brian Gosselin, to my right who witnessed a BF while off duty in 1976. George Sands to my left, also witnessed something that he fully can't explain while riding horseback along the Mountain trail in Pennsylvania. His riding companion who at the time was a Deputy Sheriff also witnessed it. George Sands is a retired construction engineer. We've been discussing footprints that have been casted outside of the Whitehall and Adirondack area. Brian and I are planning on getting together over the coming weeks. He's fully disgusted with the many inconsistencies that riddle the documentary film, shot in Whitehall, NY, in May 2003. Brian is looking for a newspaper or newsletter to print a statement by him so he can cover the inaccuracy that I previously mentioned. If you think your interested, Ray, let me know would you? (Yes...please forward it, Ray)

* From : Gaelicbell@aol. In a message dated 10/27/2005 eyeofnewt@att.net writes: Allen recounted descriptions by Southern Illinoisans and Kentuckians of the "little red men of the woods." The creatures are described as 4-feet-tall and hairy with human-like faces. They stand upright but are also able go to all fours like an ape. They are commonly reported throughout the American South in swampy areas and are known as swamp apes, skunk apes or napes, and monkey men.

* "debbie Hycha" debhycha@hotmail.com | Subject : Bears; Date: Oct 29, 2005; Hi Ray,

Another oddity to tell you about. Wish it was a Sasquatch story though! I emailed my sister in the Yukon a few days ago. I had a bear coming around here the other day. (They don't come around here very often in Mission, BC) He puked up a whole pile of apples. It was near my boyfriends mechanic shop. Who really knows why he threw up? My dog got blamed for the whole mess! My boyfriend told me to clean up the mess my DOG made ! I started poking at the big pile of what ever it was on the ground. turns out a bunch of apples. As I stared at it and I knew my dog doesn't eat apples I figured only a bear could throw up all that pile of guck? I figured " poor guy .must have liked some anti freeze or some kind of poison?" He probably was fattening up to hibernate? Well, then I walked by some mud and found bear tracks. I guess a little bigger than my hands. I really don't mind them coming around. Last night on the news on TV a bear on Vancouver Island strolled into a deli wanting fresh baked blueberry muffins! He just stood in the doorway and wandered a bit by the oven to see what was cooking! I got an email back from Carlene (in the Yukon) we have a close cousin in Switzerland now (we grew up together up north, my family and my cousins) this is my oddball story. My cousin called my sister from Switzerland a couple days ago, I guess a bear was spotted in Switzerland. This is the second bear spotted since 1914! The last one got shot then by some idiot! They figure this last one spotted roamed over from Italy? Creepy huh? My sis says that she hasn't seen any Grizzly's lately way up North, I guess they are pretty close to hibernating. I felt sorry for the poor bear that threw up all his apples in the yard here. Poor guy, just trying to get some grub for his long sleep! There is a lot of road construction right now here also, in front of the house. I guess the bears are confused and disturbed? One guy about 300 miles away just got mauled and half his head and ear torn off. He is 78 years old. Lotsa' mauling going on in the area. People just don't know how to be calm around them I guess? But then again the bear in the deli wouldn't leave even when the lady was clanging pots together to scare him off! He really wanted the fresh muffins! Anyway, Happy Halloween, I hope you are listening to Art Bell. I love this time of year on the program when they get all the weird people calling in and the ghost stories and the unnatural! I keep my radio by my head and fall asleep listening to all the stories. Fun! Debbie

* From Michael Newman; From The Press and Journal (Aberdeen, Scot.): 15 Oct. 2005 MAN CLAIMS NESSIE SIGHTING JANE CANDLISH A Caravan park owner claims he saw the Loch Ness Monster while walking his dogs on Thursday night. Robbie Girvan, who runs the Loch Ness Caravan Park near Invermoriston, said he got an eerie feeling as he watched Nessie's head and body rise out of the water in front of him. He also claims to have proof of the creature's existence after taking photographs on his digital camera. Mr Girvan described the creature as dark green and silvery. He said: "Other people didn't believe me, but then they see the pictures and are amazed."

* "Michael Newton" eyeofnewt@att.net | Sasquatch in Michigan; Oct 29, 2005 Petoskey (MI) News-Review: 28 Oct. 2005 Bigfoot is out there; Jerry McBain

There is nothing like a good campfire during a cool fall night. The air is crisp and still, the fire is warm and comforting and the time of year reminds you of the mysteries that could be watching you in the darkness. It is a situation perfect for telling ghost stories. With this column, I am finishing off this three part series in nature mysteries and chills with some of the mythological beasts of Northern Michigan. Bigfoot; Tales of Bigfoot go back to Indian times, when legends told of a man of the woods. Bigfoot - or sasquatch - is over 8 feet tall, covered in dark black, gray or reddish fur, walks on two feet and is similar in appearance to the great apes. They are known to let out horrible screams in the night or loud, deep human-like growls. People all over the state have reported sighting this mysterious creature, and there is at least one man who is hunting them. Wayne King, of the Michigan/Canadian Bigfoot Information Center in Caro, said he has been tracking and hunting these creatures since the 1970s. King claims to have seen three of the creatures and has collected footprints, hair and feces. King said each time a report is made of bigfoot, he is contacted by the Michigan State Police and he interviews the witnesses. The first time he saw one - actually two, a mother and child - was in 1982 in Tuscola, near where he lives. The second was in 1985 also near his home. Both times he said he was struck by these animals' eyes. They were large and bright white.

King said there were sightings of the creature in Grand Traverse County in 1977 and he has heard of reports from

conservation officers of the creature in the Upper Peninsula chasing down and killing deer. However, King believes the creature is an omnivore. Because he wants positive proof of the animal, he said the only resort he has is to try and kill one. He said he had one in his rifle sights once, but did not shoot because he could not see its eyes and thus be sure it was a Bigfoot.

He added he has been threatened with imprisonment and prosecution for murder by the Department of Natural Resources if he kills one. I called the state headquarters of the Department of Natural Resources and was told that they have never heard of King. Furthermore, Sgt. Brian Newcomb of the Michigan State Police Caro post said neither he nor any of his officers have ever worked with King on a Bigfoot case. "We wouldn't even waste time of it," he said. As for Bigfoot and King, King said he has not heard of any Bigfoot sightings in the past 6 or 7 years.

Dogman; There is a local legend that says a creature that may be a werewolf stalks the nights of Northern Michigan - especially the Cadillac area - every 10 years. And there is even a song about the creature called the "dogman."

The song, written by Steve Cook, production director of WTCM, was first played on the radio station in 1987. It told the tale of lumberjacks in Wexford County in the late 1800s who came across a dog that walked on two legs and tales of people and animals found dead from shock with the tracks of a large dog being found around them. It also told of a cabin in Luther that looked like it had been attacked by a large canine.

The problem with the legend is, according to Steve Cook, he made most of it up. Cook wrote the song as an April Fools joke in 1987; however, soon after it was played people began to call the station to report their own sightings of the dogman. (I think Michigan is the source of the Paul Bunyan myth also-Ray)

This continued for several years, but then a strange thing happened – and the only true portion of the song. In 1997, a unoccupied cabin's door in Luther was found covered in claw marks and dog tracks were found around it. So, Cook added it to the song. As for the existence of a real dogman or werewolf in the forests of Northern Michigan, Cook said, "That is kind of up to you to decide. It's (the song) gone beyond us and become part of local folklore. A lot of people swear up and down saying they saw one."

Lake Michigan monster; Simon Otto, of Petoskey, retells stories told to him years ago by local Indian elders of a monster being seen in Lake Michigan off of Petoskey around the turn of the century. (Note: Petosky is noted to rock collectors because of its peculiar beach pebbles...actually they are a fossil algae a half billion years old: Petosky Stones-Ray)

The monster, called the underwater sea panther, had been spotted in Lake Michigan, off of Cross Village, off of Harbor Springs and off of Northport and in Torch Lake. Even Otto's grandfather reportedly saw it near the water when he was a lumberman near Manistee. Otto's grandfather called it the big snake that lived in the woods.

The animal was called the sea panther by local Indians because its head looks like a cat's, with the body of a large lizard and spikes down its back. Otto added he has not heard of any more sightings of the animal by locals for the last 25 years. "I have heard it from many different people that I didn't even know. So there might be some truth to it," he said. Whatever you believe about the existence of these creatures of the forests and lakes, it is fun to tell their tales around the campfire. Happy Halloween.

* CR: "Dr. Daniel Nephilim" revnephilim@yahoo.com
Bigfoot gets his big break By Sam Kusic TRIBUNE-REVIEW October 27, 2005 Despite Wednesday's cold and rain, 8-year-old Dylan Rectenwald was allowed to play outside. He was having fun, pretending to be chased around Ligonier Township by a man in a Bigfoot costume. Rectenwald, who lives in Hempfield Township, is one of the area residents who are re-enacting tales of reported Bigfoot encounters and UFO sightings for a Canadian television show called "Creepy Canada." This week, the crew is filming segments in Westmoreland County. The show retells urban legends and documents the paranormal and supernatural, according to creator and director Bill Burke. Among the stories being told are several Bigfoot sightings in which area residents claim to have seen a hairy, apelike creature standing nearly 8 to 10 feet tall with footprints 17 or more inches in length. Though the name of his show suggests otherwise, at least half of its newer segments are about people and places in America, Burke said. He and his crew are currently putting together pieces about a wave of UFO and Bigfoot sightings that took place around here in 1973. Their lead source is Stan Gordon, a Greensburg resident who has been studying the phenomena for years. As Gordon explains it, in 1973 there was a wave of UFO sightings across the country. And in the late summer and fall of that year, there was a rash of Bigfoot sightings in Western Pennsylvania. On some occasions, he said, there were reports of UFOs and Bigfoot being seen together. Re-enacting some of stories from that time, some of the show's scenes are filmed at a Ligonier Township mobile home park and in the fields around the Lady of the Lake bed and breakfast, which is also in the township. There are also plans to shoot footage at the Laurel Caverns in Fayette County for an unrelated segment. Some of the cast are local actors. Some have never acted before, like Rectenwald. There's also John Shissler, the big man in the Bigfoot costume. At 6-foot-5 and 325 pounds, his enemies would call him trouble. His buddies call him Sasquatch, another name for the mythic creature. He's got the credentials you'd want in a fellow cast to play Bigfoot. "It's a role of a lifetime," said the Bethel Park resident. "I've been in rehearsal for 47 years." He's never acted before, not that it matters. As he'dsaid, there's really not much to his role."Just grunt a little bit," he said.

Rectenwald's role also is simple. Walk up to a thicket. Presume there's a deer in there and flush it out by throwing some rocks. Act scared when Bigfoot pops out. Playing a paranormal investigator is Ken Cooper, who's performed with the Greensburg Civic Theater for 10 years. He said this work is different from stage work because there really aren't lines to recite. The action, he said, is the important thing. "You've got to look the part," Cooper said. Many most likely will take the reports the show is re-creating as hogwash. Burke, however, said he thinks there is something to them. "There's a lot more out there that we don't know about," he said. "It's a big, strange world." And he believes the people who reported the encounters are truthful, he said. "These are not people sitting around with aluminum foil on their heads." And if people aren't convinced of anything, no matter. "It's just interesting drama," he said.

"Creepy Canada" is in its third season, and airs on Canadian station CTV. Nephilim's Paranormal Investigations - http://paranorm.cjb.net

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net> | Hockomock Swamp, Mass. From the Boston Globe: 30 Oct. 2005; Tales from the swamp; From ape-like creatures to glowing lights, Hockomock has kept its secrets for centuries By Ross A. Muscato As is fitting this time of year, one of the most popular portals on the Web recently included a link to a list of "The World's Creepiest Places." Among the famous and usual suspects are the Bermuda Triangle, Roswell, N.M., the Gettysburg battlefield, the Tower of London, the Paris Catacombs, and, in our own neck of the woods, bewitched Salem, and the Lizzie Borden Bed & Breakfast, the Fall River home in which Lizzie's parents were brutally murdered in 1892 by someone wielding an axe. Missing from the list, but well known to students of the strange and paranormal, is a large swamp in Southeastern Massachusetts not far from the Borden place where many believe -- even if she was never convicted – young Lizzie did the hack job on her folks. For hundreds of years, the Hockomock and surrounding areas have been a hotbed of reported supernatural events and strange sightings and experiences. Loren

Coleman, something of a celebrity in the field of cryptozoology, or the study of "hidden animals" like Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster, and Mothman, discussed the area in his 1983 book, "Mysterious America." The Wampanoag people gave the swamp its name, with Hockomock meaning "place where spirits dwell." "Devil's Swamp" is what English settlers of Colonial times named it. The Hockomock Swamp, contained within parts of Bridgewater, Easton, Norton, Raynham, Taunton, and West Bridgewater, and crossed by a number of roads (including Route 24 and Route 138) and an old railroad bed, is 6,000 acres of black rivers, marshes and ponds, thickets of cedar and maple trees, beds of brush, twisting vines, sinkholes, and quicksand, with some of it miles removed from human habitat.It is rich in animal, plant, and geologic diversity. The swamp itself and the 17,000-acre "Area of Critical Environmental Concern" (a designation granted by the state in 1990) in which the swamp sits, serve as a sponge and release valve for rain water and melting snow, thus protecting the area from flooding. The swamp and its environs represent the largest freshwater vegetated wetland system in Massachusetts. Human artifacts discovered in the swamp have been dated at some 9,000 years old. In his book "History of the Hockomock," local wildlife and conservation journalist Ted Williams wrote that, during the Ceramic (or Woodland) Period from about 300 AD to Colonial times, Native Americans depended on the swamp as an abundant source of game, and also worshiped it. "Hockomock" referred "not only to the evil spirits that struck terror" into the hearts of the colonists, Williams wrote, but also the "good spirits that led Indian to moose and deer." Over generations, many have believed the Hockomock is home to spirits, strange animals, and more. Stories abound: There are the vicious, giant dogs with red eyes seen ravenously sinking their fangs into the throats of ponies; a flying creature that resembled a pterodactyl, the dinosaur that could fly; Native-American ghosts paddling canoes; and glowing somethings hovering above the trees. There's also talk of a shaggy half-man, half-ape seen shuffling through the woods. Students of the paranormal have speculated that negative and disruptive energy was created when the Native Americans of the region were so horribly persecuted, and that that energy continues to circulate in the Hockomock.

There have been reports of cult and satanic rituals conducted in the swamp. Some believe the Hockomock Swamp is cursed. Joe DeAndrade thinks the swamp may be the habitat of a creature yet to be identified. In 1978, DeAndrade, then 24, was standing on the shore of Clay Banks, a pond in Bridgewater near the swamp. His back was to the water. "I was standing there, and for some reason I had to turn around," DeAndrade says. "It was a chill or something inside me. "And I turned around, and there, off to the right, maybe 200 yards away, there was this -- well, I don't know what it was. It was a creature that was all brown and hairy, like a big apish-and-man thing. It was making its way for the woods, but I didn't stick around to watch where it was going. I ran for the street." He has never figured out what it was he saw. Not long after his encounter, the Bridgewater resident organized expeditions in search of the Bigfoot-like creature. Equipped with cameras and rifles, the searchers trekked deep into the Hockomock Swamp two or three times. They found not a trace of the beast. About five years after DeAndrade saw his creature, another local resident reported seeing something similar. John Baker, a veteran fur trapper, was about a mile from his West Bridgewater home, on a canoe in a river in the swamp, laying muskrat lines on a winter night. Paddling along in the quiet, Baker heard a loud crash and rumble of an animal in the nearby woods. Frozen with fear, he saw a large hairy beast slog into the river and pass within a few yards. "I knew it wasn't a human because when it passed by me I could smell it," Baker said in an interview in 1998. "It smelled like a skunk: musty and dirty." Baker, who died in 2001, always maintained that he could not identify what he saw, but that in his more than 30 years of trapping in the swamp, he never saw such a thing before or since.

Is there a natural explanation for the unnatural or supernatural in the Hockomock Swamp? Chris Pittman, a student of the paranormal who has focused on the Hockomock for a decade, says the way the swamp evolved -- from glacial activity to the mounting of alluvium deposits to the death and decay of plants that created the swamp's thick peat bedding -- may have resulted in a gravitational anomaly that allows for the weird and unexplained. "Throughout the world, there are areas that have vortexes, or windows, in which the laws of gravity seem not to operate in the way as understood in the natural world," says Pittman, who lives in Franklin. "And while not all these places are rife with the paranormal, I am fairly confident that almost any place you find the paranormal humming, there is also a vortex where gravity and energy aren't behaving normally. Pittman says he hasn't experienced anything supernatural on his own trips into the swamp. But, he adds, he is a "100 percent" convinced that others have.

Going back to the early 1900s, there have been several reported sightings of UFOs in the vicinity of the swamp. On Halloween night in 1908, two undertakers on their way from West Bridgewater to Bridgewater said they saw in the sky what looked like a giant lantern, and they watched it hover for nearly 40 minutes. Swirling lights have also been seen above the swamp near the Raynham-Taunton Greyhound Park. Area resident Courtney Cullen says she saw what she believes was a UFO in the summer of 1999 while at a cookout in Bridgewater near Lake Nippenicket, a good portion of which is in the Hockomock Swamp. "Suddenly there was noise, wicked loud," Cullen recalls. "And next there were lights in the sky; no color but just bright lights. They were descending fast, like coming straight at the house behind where we were at the cookout. And just as it seemed that the lights were going to crash into the house, they darted sideways at this unbelievable speed and soon they just disappeared. "But what I also remembered is that soon after we saw the lights, more than one helicopter appeared in the sky, in the area of where the lights were."Christopher Balzano, who runs Massachusetts Paranormal Crossroads, an online archive and compendium of stories and research on the paranormal that he launched three years ago, says he thinks he might know what is going on in the Hockomock Swamp. "So much of King Philip's War [1675-1676], a terrible and bloody conflict between English settlers and the natives of the region, took place near the swamp," says Balzano, 30, of Woburn. "Both sides committed crimes against women and children, and the swamp saw some of the bloodiest massacres ever to happen in America. Even after the war, there was betrayal and killing.Might won -- the Wampanoag found their land taken away and most of their tribe was killed. Their traditional enemies had sided with the settlers and had gained power over them as well. "Some say that the wounded and pained spirits of the Wampanoag are the reason for the paranormal in the swamp. That is part of the explanation, but I would go further. I think the vortex was in place in the swamp before the settlers, and before the Native Americans. That vortex contributed to the inhumanity of the war between the Wampanoag and the English, and it fosters pain and evil in that area to this day."

* Michael Newton" Tex-Mex monsters; From the Brownsville (TX) Herald: 31 Oct. 2005 El cucuy has roots deep in border folklore; Its name is whispered in hushed tones. For mothers, it is the ultimate threat that keeps their sons and daughters in line. For children, it is the bogeyman, the closet monster and their worst nightmares rolled into one hideous being. It is el cucuy.

Walk down any market in Brownsville or Matamoros and you can hear mothers invoke its name. "Portate bien o te lleva el cucuy," they say. "Behave, or the cucuy will get you." With today's children obsessed with video games, movies and other features of modern life, why do they still fear the shadows at night? Why does this age-old monster still haunt them?

Cultural Creature; The beast is known by different names to different people throughout Latin America. It has been called cucuy, coco, cocu, chamuco and a dozen other titles.

Anthropology professor Tony Zavaleta explained that the "shadow figure" is a common myth passed between parent and child. Fathers traditionally tell children that there's nothing under the bed or in the closet, while mothers tell the child to fear cucuy. "One of my earliest recollections, being a little kid ... is hearing the ladies raising kids always say 'oo-ee,'" Zavaleta said. "That sound would alert the child of danger; it would alert them to the dark side. There was something out there that could get you." Pre-industrial societies create a conceptual fear creature to keep children away from dangerous places, a theme seen in M. Night Shyamalan's 2004blockbuster film "The Village." These legends often continue as civilization develops, and new names are assigned to it. ?The cucuy is ours,? Zavaleta explained.

Social sciences professor Manuel Medrano said popular legend describes cucuy as a small humanoid with glowing red eyes that hides in closets or under the bed. "Some lore has him as a kid who was the victim of violence ... and now he's alive, but he's not," Medrano said, citing Xavier Garza's 2004 book "Creepy Creatures and other Cucuys." "He's childlike with red eyes, and somewhere between life and death." The legend came from Latin America but has remained a strong part of border folklore."These creatures develop a permanence by word of mouth, from generation to generation, usually from the grandmother to the grandchild," Medrano said. "It's got an appeal not only because it is mysterious, but also because it is a good way of maintaining a child's discipline." This bogeyman takes different forms depending on the family."You take a traditional (legend) like La Llorona, and you are going to get different versions," Medrano said, referring to the popular ghost story."Some people say she has blond hair and a skeleton face. Other people say she has black hair and a horse face."

Zavaleta said descriptions change from family to family, but bogeyman legends are common worldwide."In every culture, there is that mythological monster," Zavaleta said. "In modern times, it could be the chupacabra. It's always a feeling that there is something just waiting to get you." Mysterious Monster; As more myths fall to the clarity of science, many people are trying to find the truth to monsters that hide in the night. "They told me not to go out at night because cucuy would get me," said Bob Melendez, paranormal investigator in Brownsville. "I was afraid to look under my bed." Although he dismissed such stories as he grew older, Melendez has come to view the tales in new light after interviewing people who have seen things they could not explain. "Now, I think, maybe the old folks knew something more. "The chupacabra is not a recent phenomenon according to Lynn David Livsey, president of the Brownsville Enlightenment Society, a group dedicated to understanding the unknown. "Most civilizations have an oral history," Livsey said. "Since it was not written down, we can say they are fairy tales or they didn't really happen." Stories of small bloodthirsty creatures with glowing red eyes, like cucuy or chupacabra, have been around for years under different names. "Before the chupacabra incidents, there were stories of bat-like creatures living in the Sierra Madre," he said. "Are people crazy with nothing better to do, or is there something happening?"

In September 2004, a giant squid was captured on film for the first time, further cementing the existence of this once-mythical beast. Livsey hopes the same can be said for monsters along the border some day. "With research, one day we will find answers to these mysteries," he said. Medrano said people often try to explain the unknown using terms that are familiar to their culture, such as spirits, ghosts, aliens or monsters. "When something unknown happens, oftentimes, you say 'The devil did it,'" he said. "The chupacabra is a little more contemporary and a little more rural, while the cucuy is more urban and indoors."

Independent filmmaker Henry Serrato premiered his mockumentary "Search for the Chupacabra" in the 2005 CineSol Film Festival. The film mixed real And rehearsed interviews w people discussing how the chupacabra has become a modern cucuy for some parents. "Mexicans don't practice 'time out,' so they put the fear of the bogeyman, the chupacabra or La Llorona in their children," Serrato said. "Overtime the chupacabra just got tied in with Hispanic culture, even though it has not been around as long." Although seen as modern "urban legends," monster stories are still used in indigenous parts of Latin America to keep children and adults inside at night.

"Once night falls, that's when the creatures come out," Zavaleta said. "Those fears are universal, it's not just children."

Different theories may be offered to explain away unknown monsters, but witnesses say nothing can challenge what they've seen. In the early 1970s, Alex Resendez, along with his wife and son, saw what has been dubbed the "Big Bird." Like the chupacabra, the giant bird was linked to livestock deaths, and like the cucuy, children were told it could come for them.

"I saw the bird twice, one time here in Brownsville and one time by Mission," Resendez said. The big bird menaced people in the 1970s, and the chupacabra was a blamed for animal deaths in the 1990s. Serrato wonders if it isn?t time for a new cucuy to take the spotlight. "Maybe another creature to pop up again, maybe it's due for an appearance, "he said. Whatever name is called, and whether or not it is ever caught, the cucuy will continue to frighten little children, and keep wary adults watching the shadows at night.

* 11/4 PETER BYRNE, armed with substantial grants, is heading for Nepal again to build a not-for-profit safari lodge in the country's far west that will be devoted to scientific research and with all profits to be directed into wildlife conservation in a wildlife park in that area. Peter states that in recent weeks he has talked about going back into Bigfoot research. However, with the new lodge-a long cherished dream-about to become a reality, Mr. Bigfoot, he says, has to be moved to the back burner for a while. In any case, with seventeen years of full time professional research in the Bigfoot field-a record unequalled to date-perhaps he feels he has given our elusive friends enough of his time and energy. Onward >>> PB.

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net> |
CZ art symposium in Maine; From the Portland (ME) Phoenix: 4-11 Nov. 2005 Not Yeti; Cryptozoology at the Bates College Museum of Art BY CHRIS THOMPSON

In his book The Damned, the great researcher of anomalous phenomena Charles Fort writes of the curious and sometimes acrobatic ends to which early modern science was prepared to go in order to explain the existence of meteorites. During an era in which it was generally inconceivable that material found on earth could have its origin elsewhere, the fact of the meteorite - seemingly proof positive of extraterrestrial input - had to be laboriously reframed by responsible scientists as a freakish accident: lightning striking a particular earthly metal under precisely the right conditions, that sort of thing. Of course, evidence only exists in relation to the paradigm that makes it visible; over time enough maverick voices, combining empirical evidence with the theoretical frameworks in which to make it intelligible, produce a shift in scientific convention that lets the fact of the meteorite come to count as reality instead of speculation or outright invention. This Fortean space at the margins of mainstream inquiry is where the fields of artistic research and cryptozoology, the study of and search for "hidden animals," encounter one another. These idiosyncratic endeavors, driven by the obsessive desire to find realities whose existence the world refuses to concede, share more than an ethos. Indeed it is at the level of methodology - the craft of research, the balance of imaginative speculation and rigor, the reliance on visual knowledge and the wariness of the ways in which we can be duped by it, and the necessity of inventing conceptual and technical tools for tinkering away at the edge of the unacceptable and the

explicable - that they intersect most interestingly. Last weekend's "Cryptozoology: Out of Time Place Scale" symposium at the Bates College Museum of Art was the forum for some of their leading practitioners to get to grips with one another, and begin building the dialogue that will culminate in next summer's exhibition (of the same title) which begins at Bates and travels to the Kansas City Art Institute. After an introduction by Bates College Museum of Art director Mark Bessire, cryptozoology luminary and Portland resident Loren Coleman - founder of the first ever museum of cryptozoology and author of several texts that, if not canonical, are certainly legendary - kicked off Friday's proceedings with a lecture on the history of cryptozoology. This was followed by a presentation by artist and writer Jeffrey Vallance and his screening of the film End of Extinction: Cloning of the Tasmanian Tiger. Saturday began with a panel investigating representations of monsters, spirits, and animality in art, with artist Sean Foley, Mass MoCA curator Nato Thompson, and Bowdoin College Museum of Art curator Mark Bessire; afterwards researcher J.P. O'Neill presented a masterful lecture on the history of giant sea serpent sightings throughout the Gulf of Maine sincethe early 17th century. Coleman, O'Neill, Vallance, and another unannounced cryptozoologist and Bigfoot expert then met in a panel to explore current research in cryptozoology. Then artist Mark Dion gave a presentation on his work in the history of natural history, followed by a final panel on the relation between cryptozoology, science, and the museum including Dion, Bessire, Coleman, Thompson, artist Rosamund Purcell, and curator Raechel Smith. The evening concluded with a presentation by artist Ellen Lesperance and her screening of The Creature from Boggy Creek. In the discussion session following the "New Research in the Field of Cryptozoology," a probing question from Mass MOCA curator Thompson led three on a panel of four leading cryptozoologists to concede that they do not believe in the existence of aliens. It is intriguing that the field that has long borne the skepticism of mainstream science in order to bring us Bigfoot (although most of us know it not) and that might yet bring us Yeti and the Great New England Sea Serpent, doesn't have the time of day for the extraterrestrials among us? Thompson made them go through a list of cryptids (mermaid, Sasquatch, Jersey Devil, and others) and raise hands to show whether they were believers or no. It is impossible to describe in a short column the strangeness of the discursive space that this event produced, or to begin to tap the wide range of themes that it covered - from the relationship between animality and humanity to the social psychology of witnessing (ghosts, aliens, cryptids). What was fascinating, and refreshing in relation to every other conceivable academic conference, was that the discussions and debates, however lively, always hovered at the edge of humor and never lost sight of the monstrosity of this artistic and epistemological undertaking. (Visitors staying at the Bates Motel should beware...also watch out for flocks of birds-Ray)

* The Green Eye, New Fiction novel by Peter Byrne

At the turn of the century a man named J. Milton Hayes wrote a set of verses called The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God. The verses tell the story of a young British officer named Carew, who steals the Green Eye, a priceless emerald, from a temple in the mountains north of Kathmandu, Nepal. The emerald gift from him to the daughter of the colonel of his regiment, with whom he is then in love. The priests of the temple follow Carew back to his barracks, and kill him.

Six book author Peter Byrne's daring and challenging stories, The Green Eye, tells us a different tale: Carew does not die, he is dismissed from his regiment and leaves Kathmandu and, taking the eye with him, returns to England. Now many years later and a distinguished member of the British aristocracy, he finds his conscience bothered by his youthful folly and decides to return the Eye to its rightful owners.

He secretly employs a professional, Wildman, for the mission. But word leaks out and when Wildman is traveling through India, he finds himself pursued by a group of men who are a remnant of Hindu thugs of old. Their leader is Vask, a powerful and ruthless gangster who will do anything to get the priceless emerald, including the use of his terrifying brother, a mentally retarded giant, to torture, mutilate and kill anyone who gets in his way. At Lord Carew's suggestion, Wildman takes with him a tough little Sherpa and on the way across India, where he is joined by a beautiful young Australian woman, Carew's granddaughter. At first, a confirmed bachelor, he wants nothing to do with her. Then slowly, a love affair develops as the three battle the thugs through a series of brutal fights, kidnappings, torture, car chases and shoot-outs, to a deadly finale in the mountains.

The story begins in an exclusive club in London and sweeps on from there through Lord Carew's castle in Scotland to the seething city of Bombay. It includes an interlude at the encampment of a famous Indian woman bandit and then races north to the ancient and mysterious city of Kathmandu, the dark side of which few modern travellers know. Based on the author's own experiences, the story encompasses murder and mayhem, treachery and deceit, courage and cowardice, love and passion, torture and violent death, all set against the background of the endless battle between good and evil. Methodically documented by the author's extraordinary photographs, The Green Eye is required reading for all who are stirred by adventure and the dangerous but exhilarating game of pitting one's wits against a seemingly invincible foe. (It was a fun read-Ray)
Paperback. 400 pages. Weight: 20.1 oz; Item No: 8177692089. Price: $US 9.50 ISBN 81-7769-208-9 Pilgrims Publishing

* It is with great regret that I announce the passing of Richard Grenwell of Arizona, founder of the Cryptozoological Society, Nov. 4. He was 63, and cancer took his life.

* Dr Constance Cameron recently announced that the Bigfoot Co-Op, will be discontinued after 25 years of publication...a real loss to Bigfoot research. (Note your Track Record is also in danger of folding for lack of subscribers...get someone to subscribe please-Ray)

* Dr Jeffery Meldrum will host a "Bigfoot Rendezvous," June 16-17, Pocatello, Idaho. Info 1-877-Fallrock. Speakers,: Rick Noll, Kathy Moskowitz, Dr John Bindernagel. There will be museum exhibits, storytelling, live bands, vendors, and debates.

* From Bobbie Short Bigfoot_Newsletter_Online @yahoogroups.com Bigfoot Encounters; Unknown Creature Sighted in Arkansas St. Francis Green, Greene and Poinsett Counties, Arkansas "Wild Man of the Woods" (year?)

"During March last, Mr. Hamilton of Greene County, Arkansas, while out hunting with an acquaintance, observed a drove of cattle in a state of apparent alarm, evidently pursued by some dreaded enemy. Halting for the purpose, they soon discovered as the animals fled by them, that they were followed by an animal bearing the unmistakable likeness of humanity.

He was of gigantic stature, the body being covered with hair and the head with long locks of hair that fairly enveloped his neck and shoulders. The "wildman," for we must so call him, after looking at them deliberately for a short time, turned and ran away with great speed, leaping from twelve to fourteen feet at a time. His foot prints measured thirteen inches each.

This singular creature has long been known traditionally in St. Francis Green and Poinsett Counties. Arkansas sportsmen and hunters having described him so long as seventeen years hence.

A planter, indeed, saw him very recently, but withheld his information lest he should not be credited, until the account of Mr. Hamilton and his friend placed the existence of the animal beyond cavil."

© The Memphis Enquirer, May 9th, 1851 predates the Civil War...occurring in the south not as one might expect in the Pacific Northwest...(George Haas, Bigfoot Bulletin)

* From the Daily News (McMaster University, Canada): ; Jane Christmas November 07, 2005 Giant ape lived alongside humans

A gigantic ape, measuring about 10 feet tall and weighing up to 1,200 pounds, co-existed alongside humans, a geochronologist at McMaster University has discovered. Using a high-precision absolute-dating method (techniques involving electron spin resonance and uranium series), Jack Rink, associate professor of geography and earth sciences at McMaster, has determined that Gigantopithecus blackii, the largest primate that ever lived, roamed southeast Asia for nearly a million years before the species died out 100,000 years ago. This was known as the Pleistocene period, by which time humans had already existed for a million years. "A missing piece of the puzzle has always focused on pin-pointing when Gigantopithecus existed," explains Rink. "This is a primate that co-existed with humans at a time when humans were undergoing a major evolutionary change. Guangxi province in southern China, where the Gigantopithecus fossils were found, is the same region where some believe the modern human race originated." Research into Gigantopithecus blackii began in 1935, when the Dutch paleontologist G.H. von Koenigswald discovered a yellowish molar among the "dragon bones" for sale in a Hong Kong pharmacy. Traditional Chinese medicine maintains that dragon bones, basically fossil bones and teeth, possess curative powers when the fossils are ground into a fine powder, and ingested. For nearly 80 years, Gigantopithecus blackii has intrigued scientists, who have pieced together a description using nothing more than a handful of teeth and a set of jawbones. "The size of these specimens - the crown of the molar, for instance, measures about an inch across - helped us understand the extraordinary size of the primate," says Rink. Sample studies further revealed that Gigantopithecus was an herbivore, feasting mainly on bamboo. Some believe that the primate's voracious appetite for bamboo ultimately placed him at the losing end of the evolutionary scale against his more nimble human competition. Rink's discovery coincides with an invitation to join the renowned New York-based Explorers Club. Established in 1904, the Club's seven founding members included two polar explorers, the curator of birds and mammals at The American Museum of Natural History, an archaeologist, a war correspondent and author, a professor of physics and an ethnologist. Sir Edmund Hillary is Club's honorary chairman. Membership includes an eclectic range of field scientists and explorers from more than 60 countries. Rink joins McMaster colleagues Hendrik Poinar (associate professor, Anthropology) and Ed Reinhardt (associate professor, Geography and Earth Science) who are also members. Rink is currently in Thailand exploring an area where it is believed Gigantopithecus also roamed. Rink returns to campus on November 19.

* "olintodepretto" <olintodepretto@hotpop.com>

Hunting Season Opens for Mythical Creature By KARL RITTER, Associated Press WriterFri Nov 11,12:35 AM ET

A mythical monster, believed by some to have lived for hundreds of years in the murky depths of a Swedish lake, is now fair game for hunters — if they can find it. Authorities have agreed to lift its endangered species protection. Hundreds of people claim to have spotted a large serpent-like creature in Lake Storsjon in the northwestern province of Jamtland, and in 1986 the regional council put it on a list of endangered animals.

But a government watchdog challenged the decision, saying such protection was hardly necessary for a creature whose existence has not been proven. The regional council agreed to remove the listing this month, but declined to rule out that a monster lives in the 300-foot deep lake. "It exists, inasmuch as it lives in the minds of people," the council's chief legal adviser Peter Lif said about the purported beast. "But I guess we'll have to agree that it cannot be proved scientifically, and then it should not be listed as an endangered species." The so-called Storsjo monster was first mentioned in print in 1635. Hundreds of sightings have been reported since then. Some people describe the creature as a snakelike animal with a dog's head and fins on its neck. But no clear image of it has been captured on camera.

Storsjo monster aficionados said lifting the endangered species protection was a mistake, and appeared insulted by the decision.

"We are not fanatics," said Christer Berko, of the Storsjo monster association. "We see this as very interesting phenomenon that we unfortunately have not been able to document."

* wdranginis@tidalwave.net Subject: Bigfoot stuff, Nov 17, 2005

Hi Ray, Just checkin' in. I still have the research vehicle, the winner of the ebay auction did not go through with the purchase. I needed to sell the Bigfoot Research vehicle to help with the West Virginia property fix-up, but I may end up keeping the vehicle if I can't get my asking price. Things are working out slowly in West Virginia, but things are progressing up there. I have been busy working on the cabin and have not had time to venture into the woods at all. I think I will wait for hunting season to finish up before I head out into the wilderness and start the real research.

Virginia Bigfoot Research has been donated a remote property to conduct wildlife research. The property has two waterfalls, one 100 feet and a smaller 50 foot. This property was donated by an elderly woman who saw the Virginia Bigfoot Research article in the Virginian Pilot. She is moving south soon and wanted the land to stay as a wildlife area and a place where the Bigfoot creatures could possibly live. We have tested the water from the falls and found it is very clean drinking water. The mosses seem to filter the water as it comes down the falls. The property does have some high elevation and lots of Rhododendron, so it may be a great place for the creatures to live. The plan is to have a satellite internet installed so we can monitor several cameras that will be deployed around the property. We are now looking for a mobile home or mobile office trailer to set up there for researchers to use while conducting studies. I have enlisted the help of local university students and professors to help out with plant identification and other areas of interest. The video/audio feed will be accessed on the Virginia Bigfoot Researchwebsite in the near future so anyone can check it out from home. I hope to have the trailer and cameras set up by spring so research can begin. I'm not sure where the funds are going to come from for the trailer and satellite system but it will happen. somehow. William Dranginis, Manassas, VA.

* Dr Henner Fahrenbach: HennerF@aol. Nov 20, 2005

Suggestions on how to dispose of a Dead Sasquatch Dear Ray,Here is what I have collected over time, though I would cast it in the form of "suggestions" since I am sure some of my procedures might be deemed illegal. In any case, Make sure it has a suitable disclaimer with it that absolves you or me of advocating official mischief! (Definetly...these are just suggestions-Ray)

Thoughts on a dead sasquatch.

A dead sasquatch, either found or deliberately killed, should be considered an invaluable object for scientific study and not a road to fame or fortune. The subject of a dead sasquatch, though remote, needs to be thought through before the event. If a cadaver is produced in a public context, like a traffic accident, authorities will be immediately involved, but every effort should be made by any nearby investigator to direct the corpse into competent, scientific channels and to document the event. If a specimen falls into the hands of a sasquatch investigator, especially if by deliberate effort, the following course of action should be considered. Security

Depending on the location of the corpse, be it private, municipal, State or Federal lands, then all and sundry agencies, including Game Departments and possibly Indian Nations, will stake their claims, probably with irresistible legal power, provided they are aware of the existence of the carcass. Hence, let

solute secrecy prevail, avoid press leaks at all cost, until all your plans are solid and completed. Secrecy, even of the location of the find, would preclude immediate jurisdictional or legal assaults on your ability to keep the animal and get it into proper scientific hands.

Photography

The corpse should be photographed on-site in excruciating detail with a high-quality film camera by a competent photographer (even if he/she has to be brought in specifically for this purpose). This includes pictures, always with a scaling reference like a tape measure or yardstick, from all sides and angles, with multiple exposures, of the full body, face, hands, feet, all portions of all appendages, eyes propped open, lips propped open, ears, genitalia, close-ups etc. Use ASA 100-200 color negative film and flash. If necessary, take any one frame three times over to be sure and bracket when in doubt. Think in terms of hundreds, rather than dozens of pictures.

These films should be developed by the most trustworthy laboratory (time is not a factor) to avoid bootlegged prints. The PI should retain one set of originals, but the pictures, especially negatives, should be deposited with a photo agency. I would recommend Visuals Unlimited (http://www.visualsunlimited.com), a company with whom I have dealt for years. Subsequent demand for pictures will swamp any individual and can only be handled (together with the accompanying copyright considerations) by an experienced outfit. You might want to retain some say over the type of distribution, i.e., censorship as to the contemplated uses of the pictures by purchasers can be exerted between the PI and the agency. The resultant revenue will provide for some longterm compensation for the originator of the pictures, even after the body is long gone. Sharing of the revenue between the agency, discoverer and photographer should be documented legally, to ward off later conflicts.

Discover

Collect hair from different body areas into plastic baggie or paper envelopes (fingers are ok for this). Collect blood or some tissue, especially from a fresh kill, into 95% alcohol. This can be accomplished without contamination with human DNA by using tools cleaned with 10% Clorox and dried with one-time use Kleenex. Do not allow the Clorox to get to the tissue being collected. Ninety five percent alcohol is available from liquor stores as "Pure Grain Spirits". If extremely fresh, one might try to collect blood into regular citrated blood tubes, even if that entails drawing a medical technologist or doctor into confidence.

If feces are in evidence, collect them and store them on ice before submitting them for analysis. Label all containers appropriately. If the PI is alone and has to leave to get support, he/she might consider removing one hand and one foot (above the joint) for documentation, as that would not do irremediable damage as, say, decapitation would. Do finger/toe/hand and footprints with fingerprinting ink onto white paper. Make molds of feet/ hands and face. Make molds of dentition, upper and lower. Collect the body (after photography), if decayed, into a large plastic body bag. If the body is fresh, deposit it on its back on soft underpinning (bubble wrap, pool solar cover) in a large, closed U-haul trailer, cover with similar insulating material and cover the whole carcass liberally with dry ice. The body will stay cool, will not freeze or become water logged, and there will be no suspicious bloody drip from under the tailgate. Drive it out-of-State without delay, replacing the dry ice en route, avoiding transit through California border checks, to an out-of-State, secure facility for workup. Such a facility is available in Arizona, with a willing collaborator who has paved the way with his superiors. The site would have the space and instrumentation to accommodate many experts from different disciplines. Once the workup has started, it will become increasingly difficult to arrest the progress. The transfer to Arizona should bypass California on account of border checks of the trailer contents (although there may be also Arizona border checks). Another possibility would be the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., though in both cases advance coordination has to take place.

Workup

The scientific study of a new specimen of this magnitude defies casual description, would evolve over months and attract countless specialists. Initially, it might entail exhaustive X-rays and CAT and MRI scanning; precise anthropometric measurements; skull, eye and tooth studies without invasive measures (depending on the quality and preservation of the carcass); and finally specialized muscle and skeletal dissection and exploration of the internal anatomy. It is evident that dismembering of the carcass or flaying it at the time of discovery should be avoided at all cost.

Publicity

Announcement of the find has to take the form of a carefully prepared press release, written by an experienced science writer, with selected pictures and with substantial anatomical detail to provide impact on the scientific community, hardened by years of tabloid reports. Such publicity should only occur when information on anatomy (incl. X-rays, CAT scans etc.), anthropology, parasitology, pathology, and especially DNA sequencing is on hand and can be commented upon by the respective experts. It should preferably emanate from a scientific institution and most definitely not from one of the Bigfoot organizations or a lay individual. The site of the find might have to be kept either extremely vague or confidential to avoid jurisdictional disputes. The fact that the species is NOT human should be an established fact at the time of publicity to ward off claims by Sheriff Departments, Indian Nations or other claimants. If it was obviously shot (rather than expired of old age or disease or accidental trauma), the perpetrator may want to remain anonymous to save him or herself subsequent harassment or attacks. At best, it could be claimed to have been self-defense, though that would not be credible in many circles and circumstances. (Thanks very much Dr Fahrenbach)

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net> "Baby Bigfoot" taped in N.Y.? From the Times Herald-Record (Middletown, NY): November 24, 2005 Seeing Sasquatch; Possible baby Bigfoot caught on video in Modena; Jeremiah Horrigan

Modena, N.Y. - Bigfoot, the legendary man-ape from out West, might have some East Coast relatives hanging from the trees surrounding Lembo Lake. Some shaky images on an 8-year-old videotape have sent Bigfoot watchers around the world into a tizzy. They think they've found a baby Bigfootclambering up a tree at the 300-acre former orchard off Route 44/55.

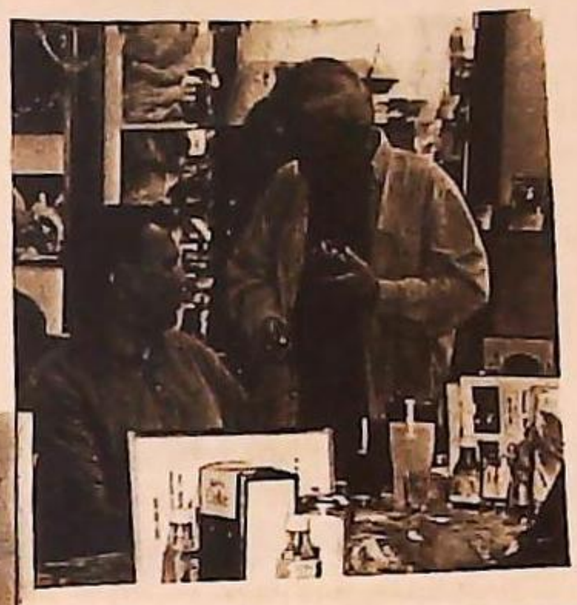
The video clip appeared on the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization Web site (BFRO.net) last week. The BFRO calls itself "the only scientific research organization exploring the Bigfoot/Sasquatch mystery." "Bigfoot? I'll be damned. I thought he was only in California," said Michael Lembo Sr., owner of what is now an ATV track next to the lake. If Lembo has his way, his place will soon become a tourist attraction for Sasquatch seekers. Turns out the mysterious man-ape has made local appearances before, as far back as 1973 at Greenwood Lake, and in 1985 in Cragsmoor in Ulster County. Sullivan County appears to have stayed Sasquatch-free during the years. The baby Bigfoot sighting is a rare instance in which a junior member of the legendary tribe has apparently been photographed. The alleged Bigfoot's baby pictures were captured inadvertently in 1997 by a Lembo Lake camper identified as Doug Pridgen, who was videotaping a friend while attending a rock concert at the lake. While transferring the videotape to a different format a few years ago, Pridgen's girlfriend noticed two ape-like figures, one smaller than the next, cavorting in sometrees about 100 feet behind Pridgen's friend. In his BFRO report, Pridgen says, "At first, you think, 'big monkey,' but what would a monkey be doing in the woods of N.Y.? The thing swings from one tree to the next and moves up and down it with ease." A followup report by the group concluded that the tape is not a hoax. Lembo says the Bigfoot sighting "will put Modena on the map." He emphasized that he found out about the sighting through the Web site.

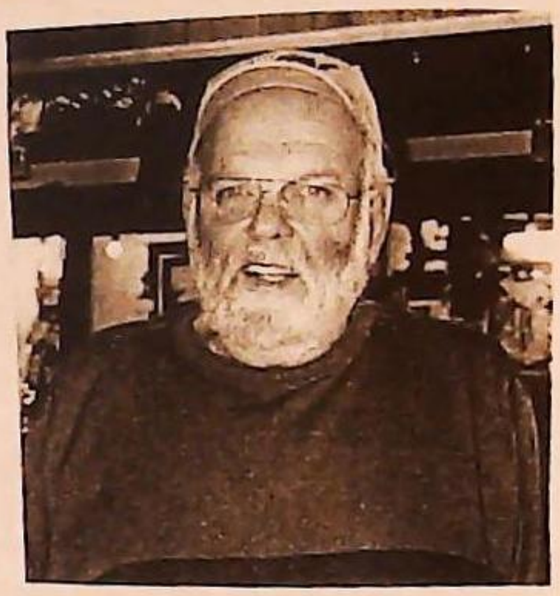
Lembo, who has run afoul of neighbors and town officials through the years for using his acreage for noisy events, emphasized that "none of this is My doing." "I didn't invite Bigfoot here ? it's not a publicity scheme," he said. He's excited by the possibilities presented by Bigfoot-based business, figuring that people will be willing to pay to see the place where baby Bigfoot has swung. "They say God doesn't close one door without opening another. This is an opportunity I should take advantage of ? wouldn't you?" he said. Lembo said a few years ago, a deer-hunting nephew told him he'd once "glimpsed" an apelike creature east of Modena near Marlborough Mountain.

"I thought he was full of baloney back then," Lembo said. "But now I'm thinking, there's plenty of caves there. That's where they must shelter.They must be a family that's migrated here ? who's gonna stop 'em, eh?"

* "Michael Newton" .From the Kaleej Times (United Arab Emirates): 24 November 2005 'Blood-sucking creature' killing sheep in Fujairah By Salah Al Debarky

FUJAIRAH - Rumours of a blood-sucking vampire-like creature preying on sheep have turned the sleepy Fujairah suburb of Sakmakam into a favorite hunting ground for scoop-seeking journalists. And it's not just hordes of journalists from both print and electronic media who are making a beeline for the suburb nestling at the foothills, but also car-loads of cops and officials from Fujairah Municipality seeking to unravel the mystery. Ask the residents about the 'vampire,' and pat comes the reply: "The creature takes the sheep by the neck, sucks the blood and leaves them dead." Some, however, contest the 'vampire' theory, stating that it was more likely an Arabian leopard or wolves doing the damage, a view shared by the police too.





Daryl Colyer speaks over the weekend at the Texas Bigfoot Conference. "We're getting closer and closer," he says. –D.J. PETERS/AP

Sasquatch just a myth? Believers say, my Bigfoot!

CR: WILLIAM MEZZANO

BY ANGELA K. BROWN

JEFFERSON, Texas — Next to a lifelike replica of a giant ape head, the believers milled around tables covered with casts of large footprints, books about nature's mysteries and T-shirts proclaiming "Bigfoot: Often Imitated, Never Invalidated."

While they can have a sense of humor about it, the search for the legendary Sasquatch is no joke for many of the nearly 400 people who came here over the weekend for the Texas Bigfoot Conference.

"It's not a matter of believing, like faith, when you believe in something you can't see," said Daryl G. Colyer, a businessman.

"It's a flesh-and-blood animal that just has not been discovered yet. And I think we're getting closer and closer and closer," Colyer said.

Outlandish theories about the origin of Bigfoot abound. Many believe that a towering, ape-like creature descended from a prehistoric 9- to 10-foot-tall gorilla called a Gigantopithecus, and that it now inhabits North American forests.

Hoaxes have been a large part of the making of the Bigfoot legend. California construction company owner Ray L. Wallace donned 16-inch wooden feet to create tracks in mud in 1958, and it led to a story in a local paper that coined the term "Bigfoot." *AP*

In pursuit of cryptids

An interview with Loren Coleman

LOREN COLEMAN is a leading cryptozoologist, trekking extensively in pursuit of cryptozoological mysteries. Coleman has written 17 books and more than 300 articles, has appeared frequently on radio and television programs, and has lectured throughout North America.

Q: Tell me about your *Field Guide to Bigfoot, Yeti, and Other Mystery Primates Worldwide* (NY: Harper Collins 1999).

A: The reason that the *Field Guide* was important to write was because the "one species" focus had to be overturned. Although awareness that there was more than one kind of hairy hominoid around the world was appreciated in the 1950s and 1960s, in the fading years of the 20th century, the "lumpers" had held forth for too long in recent cryptozoology.

The Grover Krantz notion that only one type of Bigfoot existed throughout the world was routinely repeated as the only view. But I came out of the traditional of cryptozoology that was broader, the cryptozoology of Ivan T. Sanderson and Bernard Heuvelmans.

My awareness was for the differences in types, geographical races, species and genus.

The lumpers of Bigfoot studies had said, "how can we convince science that Bigfoot exists if you insist on saying there's more than one kind?"

My response was that the evidence takes us in a certain direction and tells us something we should not deny, which is there are one than one kind of hairy hominoid out there.

In my *Bigfoot!: The True Story of Apes in America* (NY: Paraview Pocket-Simon and Schuster, 2003) I challenge the puritanical nature of Bigfoot researchers for not discussing Bigfoot as a biological animal.

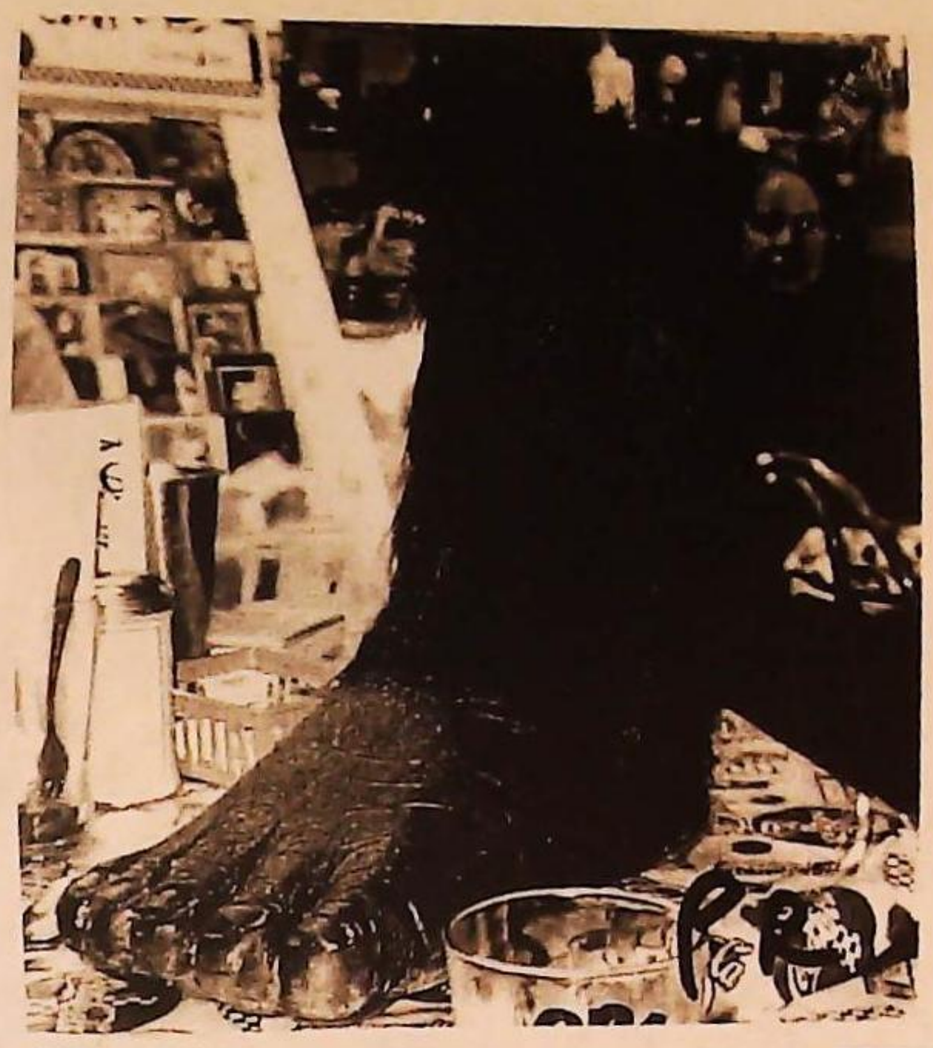
Q: During recent years, many of the powerful and credentialed Bigfoot hunters have passed away. Suspected hoaxers like Ray Wallace have passed away. Yet Bigfoot sightings seem to be going through a Renaissance, with many new and perplexing sightings and amounting hard evidence that defies debunking.

A: I really reject a short-term view of what is going on, and instead look to the long-term approach. If you see the American Bigfoot has having impacted the lives of humans, be they Natives or colonists or current Americans of all ethnicities, you can clearly see cycles.

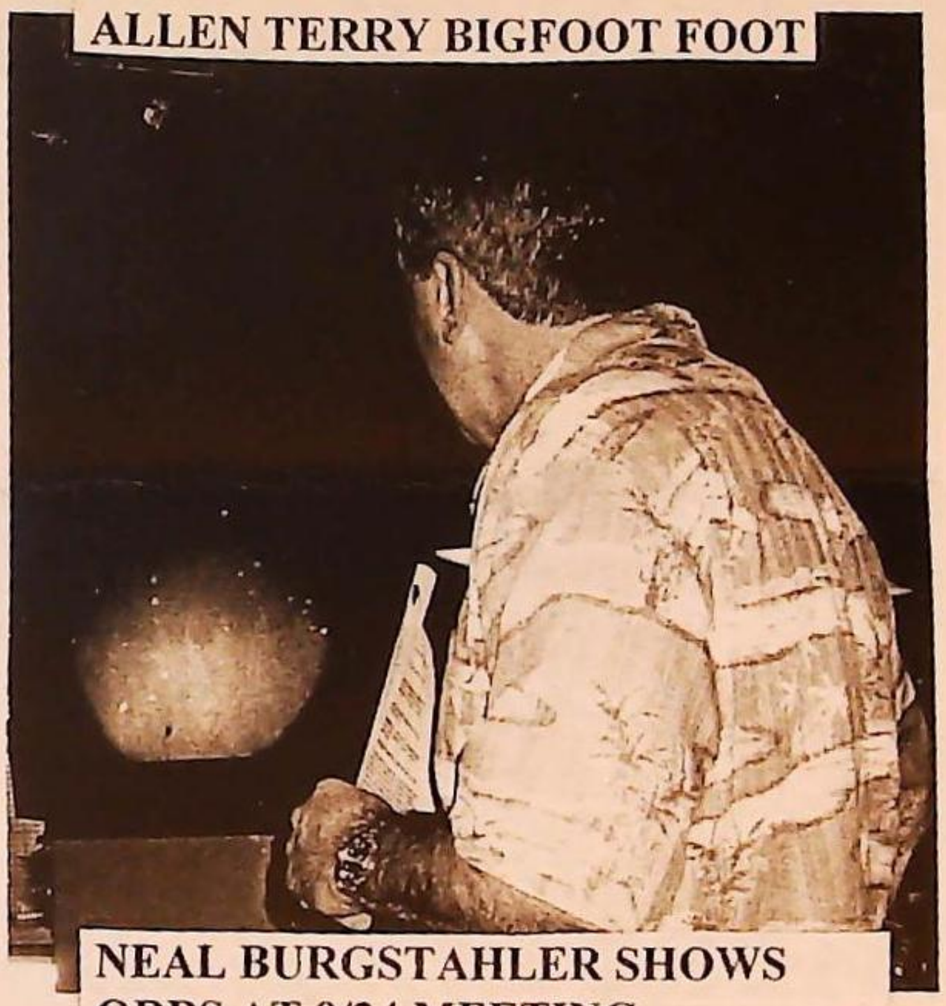
Native peoples would appreciate the Sasquatch as a member of the biological, spirit, dead or current worlds. It depended. But they "appreciated" them, and considered them in their cosmos.

In the ensuing years, as I detail in *Bigfoot!*, you have waves of acknowledgements —via 1800s newspaper articles, 1910-1920s journalistic retellings of attacks, kidnappings, and other interactions, 1930s artworks, late 1950s-1960s footprint finds and film footage, 1970s-1980s fictional films, and then the contemporary two-year cycles of rejection and acceptance.

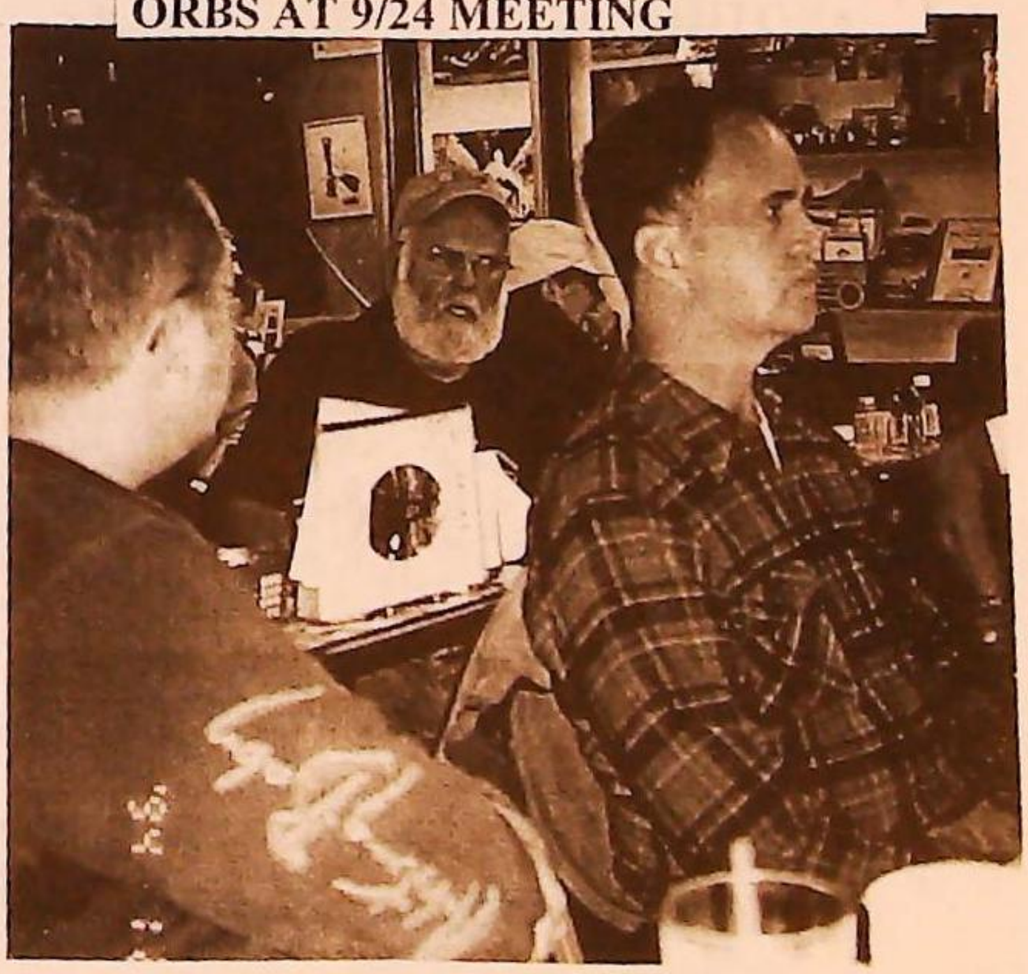
In 2004, the Hobbits (*H. floresiensi*) were discovered, then this year the ivory-billed woodpeckers. So following a year of new good reports of Bigfoot, 2005 has been a year of possible developments with the



ALLEN TERRY BIGFOOT FOOT



NEAL BURGSTAHLER SHOWS ORBS AT 9/24 MEETING



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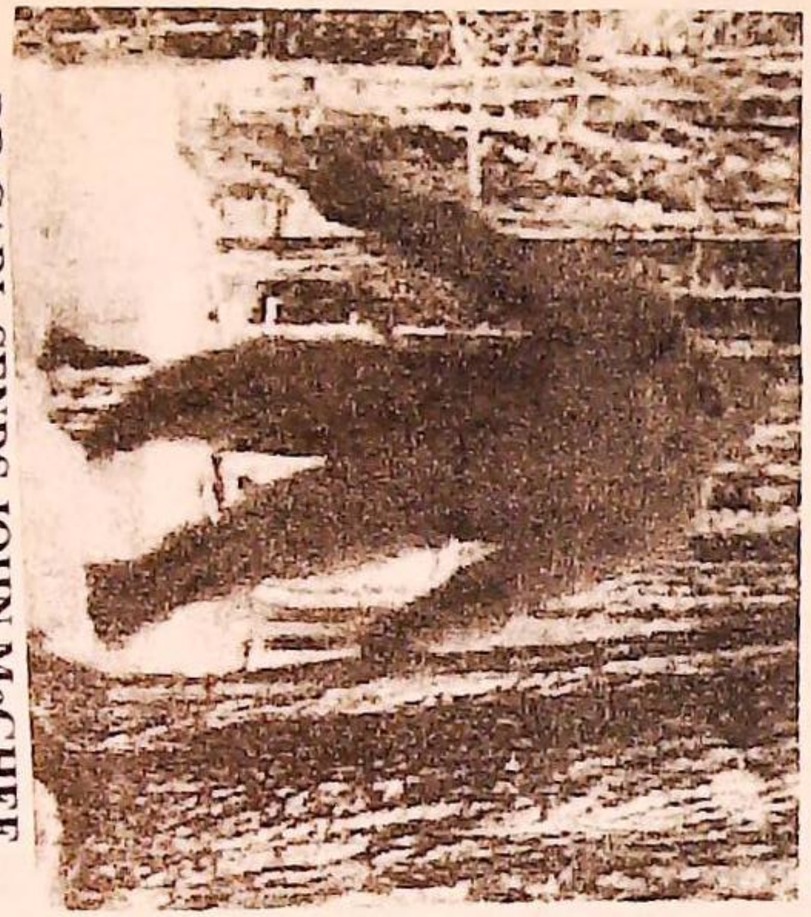
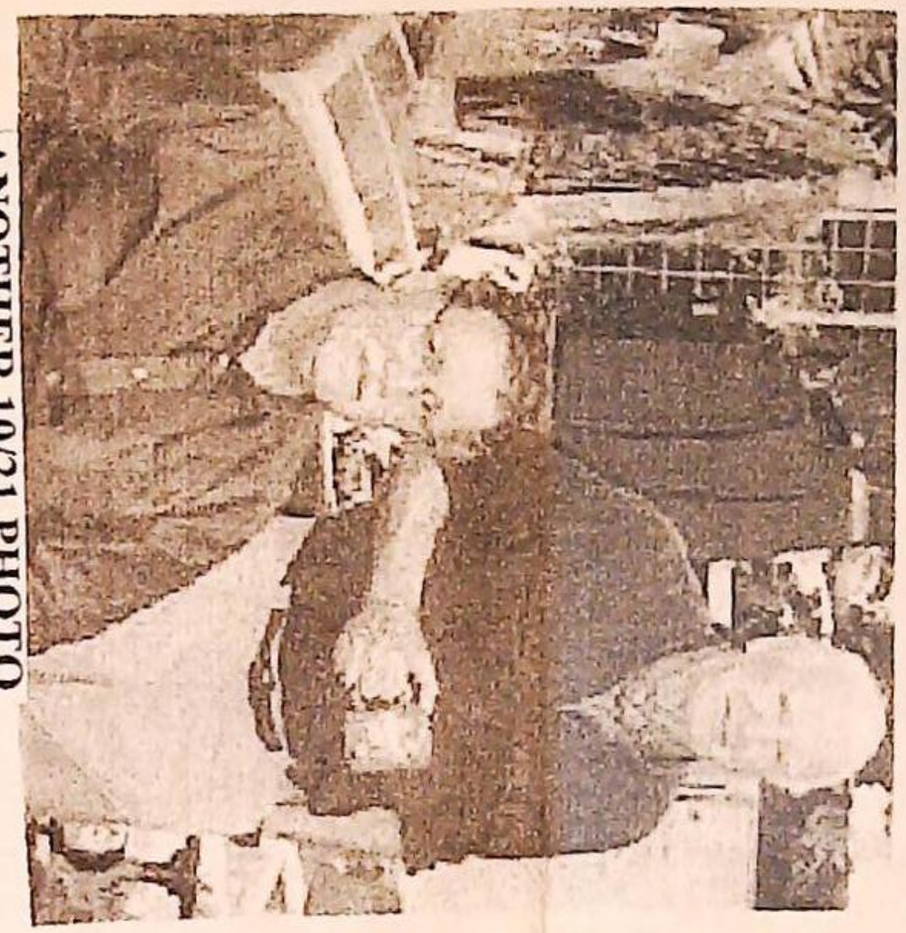


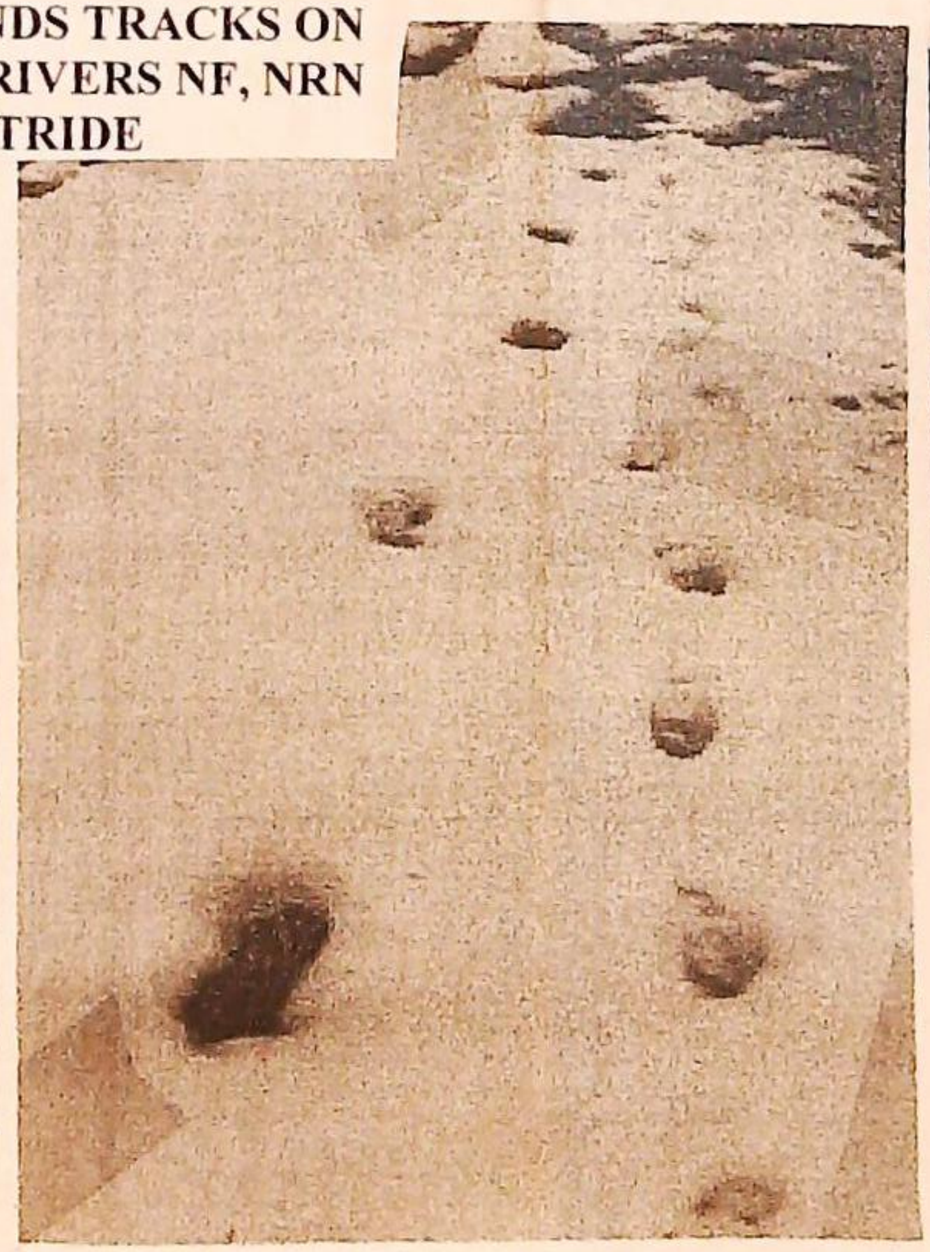
DR CARL SENDS JOHN McGHEE PHOTO



ANOTHER 10/21 PHOTO

BILL BRANN PHOTO: (L)BRIAN GOSSCLIN, BILL BRANN & GEORGE SANDS, AUG 19, 2005

DR. JIM KARL FINDS TRACKS ON APR 20, 2005; SIX RIVERS NF, NRN CALIF, 54 INCH STRIDE



Sasquatch Investigations

Report Sightings To

Bill Brann
Corner of Yole & Mountain View
Hudson Falls, NY 12839
USA

Phone: 518-747-9134

OTHER GUESTS AT 9/24 MEETING

CP; CHARLIE McCURTAIN

Bigfoot believers gather in Texas to swap tall tales

By The Associated Press

JEFFERSON, Texas — Next to a lifelike replica of a giant ape head, the believers milled around tables Saturday covered with casts of large footprints, books about nature's mysteries and T-shirts proclaiming "Bigfoot: Often Imitated, Never Invalidated."

While they can have a sense of humor about it, the search for the legendary Sasquatch is no joke for many of the nearly 400 people who came here to discuss the latest sightings and tracking techniques at the Texas Bigfoot Conference.

"It's not a matter of believing, like faith, when you believe in something you can't see," said Daryl Colyer, a Lorena businessman who has investigated hundreds of reported Bigfoot sightings in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

"It's a flesh-and-blood animal that just has not been discovered yet. And I think we're getting closer and closer and closer," Colyer said.

Outlandish theories about the origin of Bigfoot abound, including that it might be an extraterrestrial. Many believe that a towering, ape-like creature descended from a prehistoric 9- to 10-foot-tall gorilla called a Gigantopithecus, and that it now inhabits North American forests.

Hoaxes have been a large part of the making of the Bigfoot legend. California construction company owner Ray Wallace donned 16-inch wooden feet to create tracks in mud in 1958, and it led to a front-page story in a local paper that coined the term "Bigfoot."

But there have been more than 2,550 seemingly credible Bigfoot sightings reported in North America the past century, according to Christopher Murphy's 2004 book *Meet the Sasquatch*.

Murphy believes thousands more witnesses are too afraid of ridicule to come forward.

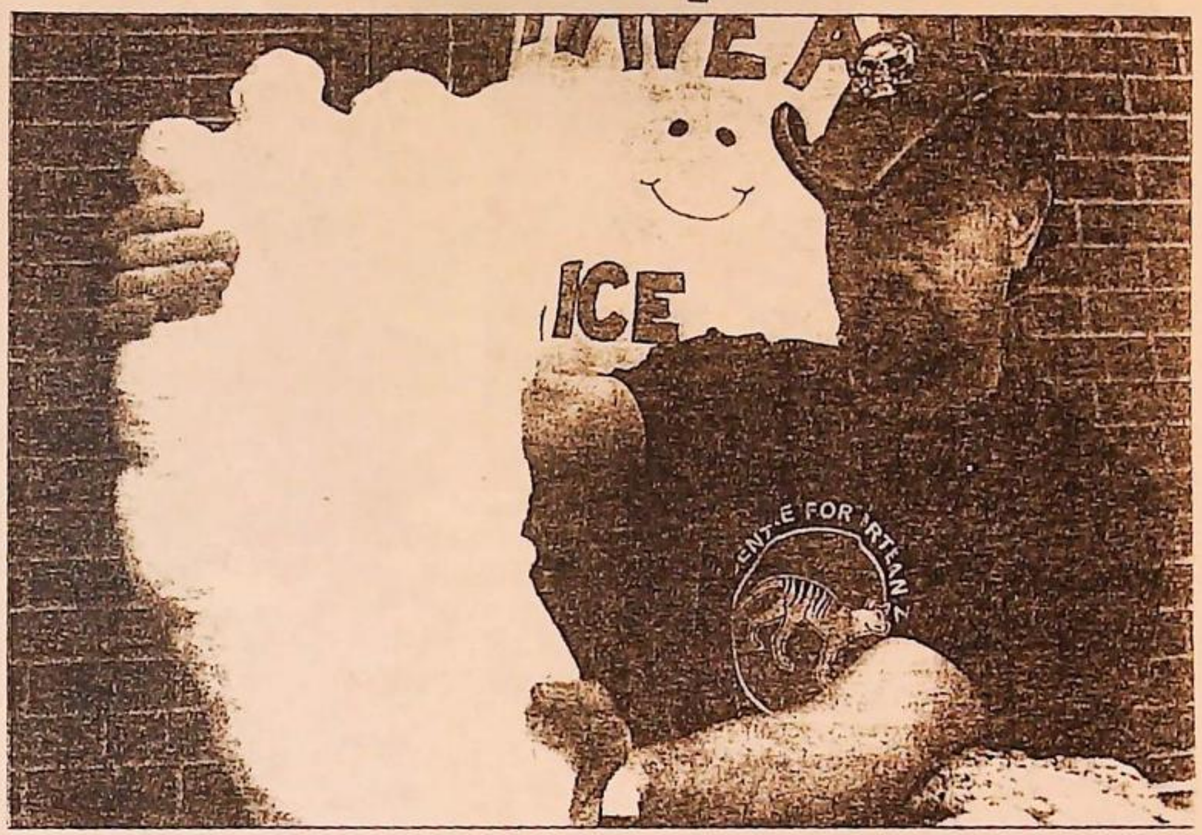
"You see one of these things and it changes your whole perception of reality," said Craig Woolheater, the office manager of a Dallas company who co-founded the Texas Bigfoot Research Center in 1999, five years after he said he saw a hairy creature walking along a remote Louisiana road.

Colyer and others estimate that about 2,000 are in North America today, reclusive nocturnal animals living in thickly wooded areas with waterways, eating meat and plants and making nests out of trees and brush.

Pictures and film footage are often disputed, such as the 1967 footage of a creature walking near a California creek. Most evidence centers on hundreds of casts of footprints collected since the 1950s.

Jimmy Chilcutt, a retired fingerprint analysis expert for the Conroe Police Department, said many of the hundreds of prints he examined belonged to a primate, but not a human, ape, gorilla or chimpanzee.

Like Chilcutt, other well-respected professionals have come forward to say such evidence should not be dismissed.



Associated Press

Ken Gerhard of Houston, Texas, holds a duplicate plaster cast footprint Saturday at the Texas Bigfoot Conference in Jefferson, Texas. The event, hosted by the Texas Bigfoot Research Center, drew enthusiasts and researchers of the legendary creature.

AN UNEXPECTED GUEST ON 9/24

NEAL AGAIN